







A  
Subaltern's Sick Leave,  
OR  
ROUGH NOTES  
OF A  
VISIT IN SEARCH OF HEALTH  
TO  
CHINA  
AND  
THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

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السفر و سيلة الظفر

ASSAFAR WASILUT-Z-ZUFAR.

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BY LIEUT. NICOLAS POLSON,  
*Of the Bengal Native Infantry.*

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The Author of the following pages requests his Readers' forgiveness of technical and orthographical errors, as absence has prevented his supervising the work when at Press.



## TO MY FATHER.

MY DEAR SIR,

Rough and unpolished though they be, the following pages can be dedicated to no one with so much propriety as to you. Had they any intrinsic merit they would be more deserving of bearing the sanction of your name; but trifling as they are, they are more likely to be kindly received by the world as a tribute of duty and affection than if they were pompously ushered into it as the god-children of one of the hereditary or fortuitous grandees of the east. Like the canoe of the Indian, my bark has none of the patent fastenings of modern science, but still it may be strong enough to answer its master's purpose, although too fragile to bear the weighty freight of a noble or distinguished name. As a simple written record of what circumstances prevent my communicating *vivâ voce*, it may excite a train of thought or raise a transient smile. At all events, I trust it may be received as it is meant, as a heartfelt and sincere tribute of esteem, respect, veneration and affection from

Your dutiful Son,

NIC. POLSON.



## A

### SUBALTERN'S SICK LEAVE.

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SEA voyages are now all so much alike that it would be useless to describe that of which each of my Indian readers has experienced the felicity. Suffice it then that, on the 15th July 1835, I sailed from Calcutta; got duly rid of the Pilot on the 21st at the Sandheads, and on the night of the 17th August reached Singapore; having only grounded once and had one or two other narrow escapes, just, as it were, to enhance the pleasure of once more setting foot on terra firma. But these and some other *disagrémens* were attributable to myself for having sailed in a miserable Liverpool trader instead of a Country ship. The latter should always be preferred on account of accommodation, table and fifty other things, which, trifling though they be,

“ Since trifles make the sum of human things,”

are far from despicable, especially by Bengalee invalids.

SINGAPORE was formed into a settlement by the British in 1819, having previously been the haunt of a gang of Malay and other pirates who did excessive mischief to the shipping. The land was finally ceded by the King of the Netherlands and purchased from the Raja of Johore, in whose territory it is situated, in 1825. The population may now be upwards of two thousand, a tenth of whom are probably Europeans.

I was on shore only a few hours at this place, and cannot therefore give any thing like a detailed account

of it. Besides, that is not my forte. I prefer just mentioning the things that struck me, and as they struck me, and care not (like the man and the looking glass,) whether it is the glass or the wooden back of the frame that I behold and describe. I profess not to be a philosopher, but a Bengalee and an invalid.

Early, the morning after our arrival, the ship was surrounded by a crowd of small boats (called here *sampans*) containing Malay, Chinese and Madrassee vendors of birds, monkeys, shells, fish, fruit, coral, scents, &c. The officers of the ship purchased several birds of the lori and paroquet species, but none of them lived to reach China. A large black monkey too was bought by one of the sailors; but it happened to get loose and immediately flew at the crew and put them to flight, disabling three men and the ship's dog and at length was obliged to be shot in the rigging where he had established his quarters, and from whence he used to sally forth and attack every one who intruded on his usurped demesne.

The settlement of Singapore struck me as the most pleasant in appearance of any I had seen on this side of the Cape of Good Hope. It is situated on a gentle declivity on both banks of a small river\* which here empties itself into the harbour which is a beautiful one. The climate is fine and the heat not too great. The view of the harbour, constantly thronged with vessels coming and going, loading and discharging, is delightful, and its ever varying face tends much to banish or rather keep at a distance that pest of most small Indian posts—ennui. Singapore has the appearance of a thriving seaport, and

\* This would yesterday have been Creek, but I was corrected by a friend kindly jealous of the dignity of the Singapore River, which is perhaps half as broad as Tolly's Nullah near the Bridge going to Kidderpore.

will no doubt eventually be as it deserves, a place of some consequence among our Eastern maritime possessions. The buildings in the town are chiefly constructed of wood, which evidently once formed parts of the hulls of vessels. The roofs are tiled, with plank linings inside the tiles, but there are also some *pucka* houses which might vie with most in the City of Palaces.

Provisions are far from plentiful. Mutton and beef very scarce and dear. Pork and fish are abundant; vegetables very scarce, even potatoes being imported from Java. Fruits of most kinds abound. I had heard much spoken of the flavor of the Mangosteen. It is certainly a fine fruit, but I was I confess, disappointed in it, perhaps because the fruit was not in the highest perfection, and possibly too from my expectations being too high wrought.

The singular admixture of nations in this free Port is one of its most remarkable features, and Babel itself could scarcely have surpassed it in the number of its tongues. In the course of a short walk I met one or two individuals of each of the following nations: British, Americans, Dutch, Danes, Germans, French and Armenians. Also, Chinese who are very numerous. Malays, Javanese, Indians of all provinces, Cochin-Chinese, Siamese,\* Bugies, and African Blacks. The commerce of the place seems chiefly in British hands, as the retail trade is in those of the Chinese. This numerous and speculative people thrive every where, and have planted their colonies in many places along the Eastern Coasts of the Bay of Bengal. I have but little doubt they will ultimately be as great a nation as the vanity of their rulers leads them to fancy they now are. \*

\* I can assure my readers on my own knowledge that the Siamese twins sent to England were not a fair specimen of their nation, as I was seriously asked one day by a lady.

The China Bazar is well worthy a stranger's inspection and the shop of Wampo (vulgo Bumpo) deserves particular attention. This establishment contains apparently every description of article. His rooms are numerous and extensive, where can be purchased every thing, from a chest of tea to a single cigar, from a penny loaf to the highest delicacies of a Chinaman, namely, dried turtle, shark's fins, tripang or bich de mer, and edible birds' nests. In the rear of the house, on piers projecting into the sea, stand numerous huts containing an immense assortment of live stock, animals, fowls, &c., and amongst them several batches of the Chinaman's everlasting friends and companions, pigs. Turtle too may be purchased here, but it is necessary the purchaser should be a judge, as loggerheads, hawk's bills, and even land tortoises, are all kept together, and frequently sold in lieu of the green turtle. I never saw a more extensive or completer establishment than this, and its good natured proprietor seems highly gratified by the visits of strangers, and as pleased at their commendations as if they had given him an extensive order. A walk round the town and dinner occupied our time till evening, when we re-embarked and the following morning once more sailed.

We made the Islands at the mouth of the Macao passage at day-light on the 1st September, and were shortly after boarded by an outside Pilot who took the ship up to Lintin, the usual anchoring place. I hired the Pilot's boat and started for Macao, about twenty miles distant from the place where I left the ship, and four hours' smart sailing brought me safely to the Praya Grande of that town.

The Chinese Pilot boats are fine, dashing, light craft, of a few tons burthen, very good sea boats and rigged with a large mast, on which works an immense lug sail made of mats. The Chinese are very skilful in working these and put them about with amazing rapidity and ease.

MACAO.—A stranger landing here soon learns that he is in China, from the immense charges made. One Spanish dollar is demanded for each man and box landed and considerably more for a woman. Moreover the sea-going boats cannot approach the beach from the shallowness of the water, so between them and the shore ply small boats, called “*Tankea*” or *Egg-houses*. Each of these is (wo-?) manned by two women or girls. The boats are very small, round bottomed, very safe and not unlike egg shells in shape. The women generally manage to tease a passenger out of a dollar for the trip of perhaps twenty yards, being about fifty times their proper fare. But time renders one callous even to the noise of a China woman’s tongue, who, regardless of all the rules of harmony, favors the stranger with something between a shriek and a drawl of which writing can convey no adequate description, and at the same time astounds his ears with language something like the following—the last syllable of each clause being lengthened ad libitum—“*My puttee you ashore, you no gibbee my monee-e-e-c—you no heb shem?—no gibbee my dala-a-a-a-r?*”

But supposing both the Customhouse and Tankea women disposed of, the visitor must find a lodging. There is now more than one house of accommodation. But, at the period alluded to, there was only a most miserable tavern on the Praya Grande or Esplanade kept by a Chinaman, and a villainously noisy, dirty, ill-managed place it was. Any respectable female’s going there was utterly out of the question. But there are now better houses for strangers to go to. There was also a family hotel called the Albion, situated about 200 yards up the hill and close to the Cathedral. Here families or individuals were boarded and lodged for any period not less than a month. The house was good and comfortable but the table wretchedly supplied. Indeed Macao is not celebrated for its supply of provisions.

Even fish is procurable with more difficulty than might be expected; and (proh pudor!) the fish market is directly in the middle of the Praya Grande, the grand promenade of the fashionables of Macao.

My readers of course know, or will by this time have discovered, in spite of an assertion of M. Maltebrun's in his valuable Geography, that *Macao\** is not on the *Malabar Coast*! It is a Portuguese settlement on a Peninsula, at the southern end of one of the islands which are clustered about or near the mouth of the Canton River. The town is built on a rocky amphitheatrical slope, flanked on the left by two fortified hills and on the right by a hill crowned with a monastery. The view of it from the sea is a very pleasing one, as its elevation and amphitheatrical site display its numerous churches, monasteries and fortresses to great advantage, and the crescent on the beach or Praya Grande is really an assemblage of good houses. But a nearer approach to the town dispels the illusion and banishes the enchantment borrowed from distance; for, like all Portuguese towns, the houses are wretchedly bad, the streets miserably narrow, and both disgracefully dirty.

The climate is good. Each afternoon brings the refreshing sea breeze to cool the parched inhabitants and each evening witnesses the congregation of nearly all the European residents on a point of rock under the Franciscan monastery, where they assemble, like a flock of gannets, talk of nothing, and ask "What ship's in?" "What news?" Here they stand and get nearly blown in pieces after having eaten their half-past 3 and 4 o'clock dinners with a Thermometer at Bengal height,—windows open and no punkahs!

\* Vide the list of Portuguese settlements in India, in Maltebrun's Geography. The curious reader may there discover Macao mentioned as on the Coast of Malabar!

The remaining Europeans ride as far as the Barrier (about 2 miles), beyond which is forbidden ground, or indulge in a "post prandial ambulation" among the Chinese tombs which cover the face of every hill.

This Barrier is a wall extending about 100 yards and entirely across the isthmus which divides the Peninsula of Macao from the island to which it belongs. The Chinese have a guard house in the middle of this wall and prevent the ingress and egress of Europeans, levy tolls on every article of supply coming into the peninsula, and finally, when displeased at the conduct of the Portuguese, cut off the supplies altogether. The population of the Peninsula may be about 12,000, or less now perhaps, as Macao, in common with all the Oriental possessions of Portugal, is sinking rapidly in consequence. It was founded in 1586 and though it once had a considerable trade, the oppressions of the Chinese, and the rapacity of its own rulers have conspired to banish foreign and eradicate much of their home shipping.

Riding is at best but a sorry amusement here, as one and one only is the direction you can go, and the Barrier forms the limit of your ride. Besides which you travel by the worst of all possible ways—road I cannot call it. The animals which are here dignified with the name of horses are chiefly Pegue and Java ponies, delighting their riders here, as every where else, with tempers like gunpowder, backbones like razors, and mouths like shoe leather ; and even these animals are scarce. The total number in Macao is about five or six. Indeed there is so little use for horses that very few people think of keeping them.

Apropos of Chinese tombs mentioned above, here is an anecdote just as it was told to me, by an old resident.

When the resident foreigners at Macao some years ago wished to make a good road to the Barrier from the town

it was found necessary to pass over various Chinese places of burial. The prejudices or the avarice of the Chinese took alarm, to quiet which the good folks commenced paying the descendants of the tenants of the graves a sum proportionate to their consanguinity. By this means the road was constructed to some distance, but at length graves multiplied so fast in their path that the benefit to accrue from the road was not deemed commensurate to the expence that would be incurred and the project was accordingly abandoned. Then it was discovered that the Chinamen's respect for the ashes of their fathers and grandfathers which was only to be conquered by the barbarians coming down with the dust, had been such as to lead them to give them a new grave as near as possible to the old one, and as they were paid for moving once they naturally thought the same might occur again, and accordingly preferred making the new graves a few hundred yards off, but still in the direct line the road was to take, thus making the worthy Macadamites pay for the re-interment of the same corpses several times ! This accounted for the frequency of the graves in the line of road and the augmentation of their numbers!!!

There are several religious establishments in Macao, which it is not my intention to give a history of, as the same may be found by all who wish in the very clever work of the late Sir Andrew L. Yungsted, a Swedish Knight, resident at Macao, who has made vast enquiries into the early history of the colonies and missions in China. Moreover, the subject cannot be one of much interest to the general reader, as agreeably to the ordonnance of the late Dom Pedro, the surviving members of all Portuguese religious houses have been pensioned off and the institutions abolished. I must however mention the church and school of the Misericordia, where foundling children are educated. There used formerly to be and still is a revolv-

ing box in the wall of this establishment into which a child might be put and a bell rung, whereupon the box turning on a pivot shut out the child from the depositor's view and the world from the view of the infant for ever. But the vast numbers of Chinese children thus "lent to the Lord," forced the brethren to close the box which now revolves no more; much to the dissatisfaction of a party of young men who lately paid a visit to it with the intention of lodging *an infant* of six feet four inches in the box for the purpose of astonishing the worthy brethren. Connected with this institution is the following practice. On the death of any one of the very few remaining brothers of the Misericordia, a Portuguese crier dressed in black, with a bell in his hand, and bearing on his head a board shaped like the lid of a coffin, and adorned with a full length picture of a human skeleton, traverses the streets and proclaims to the world the loss of one of the community of the Misericordia.

The Portuguese of Macao are for the most part the most abject and ignorant race in the world, far inferior to Indo-British of the very worse description. Despised alike by foreigners, by the Portuguese of their mother country and by the Chinese,—void of talent, energy, probity, or any one good or estimable quality, they are yet the proudest, or I should say vainest race in existence; shunning communication with and pretending to look down upon all Europeans, they lead a life of idleness, folly and depravity of which no country can show the equal. Neither does the modesty or virtue of their women in any way exceed the honesty of the men. Every woman in the colony has her price, and they will even sell their daughters to prostitution. Their usual mode of life too during the winter tends to promote vice. Too idle to work,—too inane to think or read, they pass their time, the whole of a family in one

large bed, from which they permit no occurrence but one of actual necessity to force them. Here they receive even the domiciliary visits of their fathers confessor, who, if report is to be credited, manage to find a great many nieces amongst the daughters of their parishioners, and here as elsewhere, are celebrated for sloth, grossness and sensuality.

Such is and must then have been the race, among whom Camöens, the godlike Camöens, was doomed to linger out the days of his exile. Can any one wonder at the tone of deep feeling and regret which pervades his version of that beautiful psalm—"By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept,"—while as an eloquent traveller\* says—"He sat on the shore at Macao, his guitar at his side and his heart on the Tagus."

Let not any one however imagine that Macao contains no other than the above Portugesc inhabitants. Some few there are whom blood, education and constant communication with foreigners have raised and sustained on a footing of equality with the gentlemen of any nation. At the head of these is my friend A—o P—a, than whom a worthier man I believe exists not; long may he live to enjoy his fortune and honors in the country of his forefathers.

I now come to treat of the foreign residents in Macao, and first, of His Britannic Majesty's Superintendents of Trade. But as I shall hereafter have occasion to notice them in their public capacity, I shall content myself in this place with saying that they are celebrated for their kindness and hospitality, and that any visitor to Macao may rely upon meeting every attention from Sir George Robinson and Captain Elliott. Next in the list, or rather first as a constant resident at Macao, and I believe the oldest British (if not European) inhabitant of China, is my friend Thomas

\* Henry Nelson Coleridge's six months in the West Indies in 1825.

Beale, Esq.; to those who have the pleasure of this gentleman's acquaintance panegyric is superfluous. To those who are not acquainted with him, I say—" Go to China and seek acquaintance." A visit to his dinner table will make you a more comfortable man; an hour in his splendid aviary and garden will make you a wiser man, and a visit to himself will make you think well of him, yourself and human nature generally.

First in talent, unrivalled in art, still proudly maintaining the eminence he acquired upwards of thirty years ago, there is "*but one George Chinnery in the world.*" For the last ten years this fine gentleman and celebrated artist has been in China, but India still claims his thoughts and wishes, nor will she ever resign her right to her celebrated and veteran painter, who was equally admired for his gentlemanly and social qualities, his wit and pictorial skill. As we are neither painters nor critics we shall refrain from describing the gems in Mr. Chinnery's studio, a sight of which would almost repay the trouble and expence of a voyage to China. But to meet the master spirit of the spot, the genius loci, is a treat to any old Qui Hy. His vivid recollection of men, manners and things in India many years ago,—the drollery of his descriptions, the scenic humor of his characters, independent of his celebrity as a punster, render George Chinnery a most amusing morning companion and his social and gastronomical powers render him no mean guest at a well furnished dinner table. My recollections of him are fraught with much pleasure. Long may he live and enjoy the character he has won by his talents, and may our next meeting be on the banks of the Hooghly. I must here too mention the Rev. Mr. Gutzlaff, whose talents, zeal and proficiency in the various dialects of China make him a very valuable Missionary, as his disposition and his piety render him a truly benevolent and good man !

The remaining European residents are chiefly birds of passage, i. e. they are inhabitants of Canton, who frequently visit Macao because the tyranny of the Chinese Government forbids the possession in Canton by any foreigner of "domus et placens uxor." The ladies alas! are forced to live at Macao. What wonder if the Chinese find foreigners harsh and rough when they banish their Lares from their hearths,—their wives from their bosoms—when they deprive them of that sweet influence which "emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros." But "avast there" (as the mate on the poop is just singing out"), ladies are far too sacred beings to be treated of in this cavalier style, *currente calamo*. When I publish a volume of poems they shall have every justice done them, maugre the spite of the Chinamen and the sneers and sarcasms of the critic! At present I must treat "of sterner stuff, of metal (less) attractive."

The Gentlemen from Canton while at Macao are idle, i. e. have nothing to do, and therefore seek every possible mode of killing the enemy. But the *possibles* are not numerous in China. Dinner and tea parties, the former too frequently at unseemly hours, serve well enough to wile away the evenings. But the mornings are not so easily disposed of. News there is not often much of; when it does arrive it is by wholesale, and discussed and got rid of accordingly, and again there is a dearth till the arrival of another ship. Visits to the ladies, and occasionally a game of billiards, lend their aid, but the foe is never fairly vanquished in the opinion of an Anglo-Chinese till the *Bogue*, and even *the old and new moon* are called in to the rescue! These *moons* form the grand trench into which an 'Anglo-Chinaman always retreats, and though a stranger might naturally enough look for *moons* in the Celestial Empire, yet to hear of ships in them and regattas, balls and ladies, does somewhat startle him, till he learns

that *moon* means simply a mouth or passage, and that during the southerly monsoon the shipping always anchor in one of two called the Capsing and Cumsing moons; the former being the old and empty; the latter (oh! ye astronomers!) at once the *new* and *full moon!*

Frequently too a piece of intelligence is circulated which astounds the auditors, and for which there is sometimes not a particle of foundation. At others there is a particle! I have repeatedly heard the announcement of the arrival of a ship in the morning, which, through the kindness and cherishing of the narrator, "grew with his growth and strengthen'd with his strength," till at night it had become a large squadron! and that was again subjected to the farther conversion into large ships, men of war, flags and pendants!

But these are mere trifles, and in spite of all, Macao is not a bad place—for China! I would never compare it to any place out of the Celestial empire. Is any sceptical, let him go and see and then contradict me if he can!

Those who are fond of sea bathing may enjoy very good at Macao in some of the bays of the island, but in many parts the rocks render it an uncomfortable and even dangerous amusement.

Parties, except those mentioned above, are of very rare occurrence. My visit was made at a bad season, but in the cold weather, I was told, pic nics are sometimes made to the Lappa, a very high hill on another island immediately behind Macao.

One or two joss\* houses or temples are well worth seeing, as also the forts and churches, as far as ingress is permitted. In the small fort, on the point immediately below the

\* Etymology, corruption of "Dios," Gods in Portuguese.

Franciscan church, are some very fine old guns, of an astonishing size and great age.

The Cassa garden and the grotto, which formed the favorite retreat of Camoens during his exile, may be visited, and will probably suggest to others as melancholy reflections as they did to us; to say nothing of the thoughts that will be suggested by the barbarism of the person who cut and smoothed the walls and white washed the interior of the cave or grotto aforesaid !

The fortifications of the town are in a wretched state, and the garrison consisting of, I believe, 200 mixed Macao Portuguese and Chinese Christians, little better.

The remaining curtain of the Jesuits' church of San Paolo, which was burned about 8 months ago, is worth visiting. The cathedral is in ruins, and a sight of it will not repay any one's pains.

The great scourge of China, a Typhoon, I had not an opportunity of witnessing. The last was in August, a month before my arrival. They must, from all descriptions, be most terrific. The effects were visible all over Macao, and among the shipping.

LINTIN.—At which place the ships anchor during the finest half of the year, is about 21 miles from Macao. Individuals are constantly passing up and down, and the passage boats, which will be noticed hereafter, regularly call there.

Before taking my leave of Macao it will perhaps be expected that I should say a few words on the *property* in the place. The Portuguese claim it as having been long ago given to them, but nevertheless a Mandarin and other Chinese officers are resident there and levy various duties. All passengers or goods from Chinese boats must be landed at the Chinese custom house on the Praya Grande, and a duty of 1 Spanish dollar per man,

1 per trunk, and 3\* per *woman* is demanded. All merchandise on the contrary is landed at the Portuguese custom house on the inner harbour, where a trifling duty is charged. Ships' boats land persons and luggage free of duty, but no Chinese is permitted to go anywhere in a European sailing or rowing boat. The duties levied by the Chinese Mandarin here are well known to be unauthorised, nay positively forbidden, but they must be paid for reasons, one of which will appear satisfactory enough, namely, because there is no help for it. No payment no baggage.

These people will not now permit the Portuguese to build up a fallen house without permission, as they maintain that the Portuguese have no property in the land, but are there on sufferance, and the latter are too weak to be able to controvert the point.

The Mandarin levies also an arbitrary duty on luggage, &c. going to Canton by the inner passage. Of these passages there are two. The direct or sea one is navigated in small English schooners taking 6 passengers each at Sp. Drs. 15 a head, and the voyage occupies with a good wind 8 hours, with a bad one 4 or 5 days. I have been three days making the voyage in September. The inner passage is by the river Broadway. A chop or passport is first procured from the Viceroy in Canton, and a boat, which with the chop comes to Sp. Drs. 36, is sent down to Macao. This boat will accommodate 4 people and their servants well, and is the most comfortable mode of travelling. Two to five days is about the length of this passage, and the country very well worth seeing, being very rich and highly cultivated. It is necessary to be careful not to quit the boat for fear of accidents, as the

\* This charge was formerly, we have been told, as high as 200 dollars, as foreign women are *contraband* through the Celestial dominions !

Chinese will frequently attack Europeans without provocation of any kind, especially where they are not in the constant habit of seeing them.

In navigating the inner passage it is advisable to quit Macao at night, by which means the dark hours are consumed in the sea part of the voyage, viz. from Macao to the mouth of the Broadway, and by the time daylight appears the coast is worthy a traveller's inspection. Villages are frequent on this route, but the only large town is Hong Sheang, which we reached in about 12 hours from Macao with a beating wind. Here a Taepan, or officer of the Customs, boards boats, but a bottle of Cherry Brandy and a few candles or sheets of English writing paper, usually satisfies him. From Hong Sheang to Canton the creeks which the boat traverses are frequently not nearly so broad as Tolly's Nullah, and it is wonderful to see the perseverance and dexterity of the Chinese boatmen in working up these against a head wind, being forced to put about every two or three minutes. At length the boat emerges from the creeks into a river about as broad as the Thames at London Bridge, following which for a few miles, you enter the Canton river about 2 miles above the city, and find yourself surrounded by every description and denomination of country craft, and your ears assailed by every sort of abuse from the passing Chinese, of which you are fortunately unconscious from ignorance of the language. A little way down the stream the high houses about Jackass Point and the Factories come in sight, opposite to which on the river appear the tall slim masts of two or three cutters and schooners at anchor, very different from the native craft! Stepping on shore from a Tankea boat, if it is the evening, the whole rank and fashion of the Factories, and all the disease and poverty of the city are parading the square to welcome you. Britain, America,

France, Holland, Denmark and every other nation contributes its quantum to the motley assemblage, and Hindostanees, Malays, Arabs, Parsees and hundreds of others swell the throng. Beggars, conjurers, and bird fanciers, the weak, maimed, crippled and blind crowd your path, as with a feeling of astonishment at the absence of every thing female, and something like a curse at the crowd and filth of Canton, you force your way through the opposing masses, reach your friend's house and throwing yourself into a chair, call for a ~~cup~~ of tea and exclaim "So, this is the Celestial Empire!"

In the schooners which traverse the outer passage are beds, plates, knives, forks, &c. Each passenger sends his own eatables, which a lascar on board will cook, "*more blachey-orum,*" as dirtily as may be. No Chinese is permitted to go on board one of these boats, so your ears will be gratified with sweet sounds of "*goosbordoo*" and "*baen stringee than,*" making you fancy yourself once more sailing on old Gunga's waves. With a good wind a very few hours shews you the difference. Lintin, or *the moon* with all its shipping, is in sight; is passed; and a few hours more brings your schooner within sight of Anson's Bay, and the Forts of the Bocca Tigris. Here you enter the Canton river, and proceeding up it you perceive singular shaped hills on the left with more singular names, (Tiger's head, Ty-kok-tow, &c.) On the right is an extent of flat rice land intersected with small streams, studded with villages, and bounded in the distance by a range of blue hills. At length Whampoa with its forest of masts appears. Sailing through all the shipping at anchor in the reach (they go no higher than this), twelve more miles brings you to the Factories where the same joyful welcome as above described awaits you. In addition to it however, the Custom House kindly receives

your luggage, and the attendance of yourself or servant with the keys of your boxes is also requested. No charge however is made, and indeed I never saw the ceremony here carried so far as even the opening the trunks.

Having landed my readers safely, it is time to postpone till the morning a walk round the Factories so "au revoir" readers mine.

We have elsewhere alluded to the excellence of the Police in China, which is the best and most efficient we ever had an opportunity of seeing. Punishment follows almost immediately the discovery of crime, but many of the *sentences* are sanguinary and cruel in the extreme. The Mandarins, both Civil and Military, possess the power of punishing on the spot and without trial any petty offence which they may see committed, for which purpose *lictors*, with the penal instruments, always accompany them and find constant employment.

A stranger visiting Execution Dock may generally see, if no executions, at all events some heads of malefactors exposed there which have lately been cut off, and it is no uncommon thing to meet in the streets a man in chains, having a slender arrow stuck upright into each ear, with a small flag streaming from the top, while a crier accompanies him and proclaims to the world the malefactor's crime and sentence.

The Mandarins are possessed of immense power, which, in some cases, amounts to almost a denial of justice. For instance, if a Merchant is subjected to the *squeeze* rather too forcibly, and endeavours to reach Pekin to appeal to the Emperor, every individual Mandarin on his road tries to prevent his progress, and in most cases they are successful, because there exists a rule that, previous to the preferring an appeal to the Emperor, the party must obtain by payment, a "*red chop*," or passport, from the Emperor's Court,

without which he is liable to detention by the Mandarins on the route. It of course then becomes the interest of the *squeezing* Mandarin, when he has once gone the length of injuring a Merchant, seriously to continue the squeezing system until the party is reduced to such a state of beggary, as to be unable to pay the fee for a "red chop."

But, as all judicial offices are sold in China, so likewise are indulgences to secure the payer from the rapacity of the Mandarins. Thus, any individual who pleases may, on paying a certain sum (of several thousand taels) into the Government Treasury, obtain a perpetual "red chop," giving him access at any time to the Emperor, and the possession of this document is of itself sufficient to guard the individual from any very extortionate demands by the Mandarins, who know that they cannot prevent such an individual from appealing, or his appeal from being listened to.

I have been told, that in the more remote provinces of China the Mandarins, though armed with the same authority as those in the Canton province, are obliged by the mob to keep within due bounds, under penalty of the loss of their heads in a popular insurrection. But in Canton it is different. The Chinese allege that intercourse with foreigners gives rise to the distinction, and thus far it perhaps may have an effect, but the presence of so many foreigners and the crews of so vast a number of ships render it necessary for Government to place so large disposable forces under the orders of the Mandarins, that no popular commotion could have a chance of success. The influx of foreigners cannot render more corrupt those who are as corrupt as possible, nor can their presence strengthen the hands of the Mandarins in any other mode than that above pointed out.

The system of selling public appointments is of course ruinous to all efficiency in the Chinese Armies and Navy.

The former are, as far as we could judge, an undisciplined ill-armed rabble; and a small sloop with a few guns and a good crew would keep at bay, if not utterly disable, the whole of the latter. A more contemptible force than the Chinese Army cannot well be imagined; and though we have no doubt that as individuals their courage and strength equal those of any soldiers in the world, a very small disciplined body would be more than a match for the countless hordes that China could bring into the field. If ever China is invaded by foreign troops, provisions will be the rock on which the enterprise will *split*. If it ever falls to the lot of Indian troops to visit this country, they must take the field without one of their usual vast assemblage of followers, and with their minds made up to bear many and great hardships. But as I have elsewhere said, bombardment, pillage of sea-port towns, rapidly planned and executed landings on the coast and irruptions into the neighbouring country, similar to some of the early voyages to the Spanish settlements in South America, would afford the surest means of bringing the Chinese to sue for peace and of paying the expences of the war. Empire is out of the question.

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CHAPTER II.

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CANTON.—The approach by water to this maritime capital of China, the only city in the Celestial empire in which foreigners ~~were~~ allowed to plant their feet, and the only city in the world where their wives cannot follow them, presents one of the most singular sights in the world. The town is situated on the low swampy land of the banks of a fine river which spreads its hundred arms over a vast extent of plain. The branch on which it is situated is not only thronged with every description of boat from the war-boat and gay Mandarin barge to the well painted and convenient flower boat and the singular looking tea barges with rudders at both ends, moving in every direction, but thousands more are moored at each side of the stream for an extent of many miles, while between them and the shore again are populous villages built on rafts, floats, piles, and in every kind of way whereby land can be economised. This is the great desideratum in China where the denseness of population renders the increase of land for agricultural purposes a matter of vital importance. From this cause thousands of the Chinese live continually in boats. The houses of the city are scarcely visible from the river, but after proceeding for several miles through the vast assemblage of boats the traveller sees the tall row of Factories facing the river at the distance of about 200 yards, many of them adorned with the flag of the nation to which they belong. On landing and approaching them, the stranger finds that the buildings which face him consist of

only the front houses of each Hong, as the different masses of factories are styled, and that each of these is pierced by an arched passage giving entrance to a double row of houses which form the Hong, and which extend about 150 or 200 yards, and are separated by a wall from one of the China streets which traverses the back of all of them. The houses are generally small, badly built and deficient in accommodations, though some of the farthest back houses are better.

The foreign residents in Canton are American, French and Dutch, which nations have resident Consuls; British, formerly represented by the East India Company's Factors, but now unrepresented; Danish, Swedish, Spanish, Portuguese; and Parsees and Indians, who are also subjects of Great Britain. The total number of these foreigners in 1832 was 110, but at the period of my visit there were upwards of 160 resident.

The foreign residents in Canton are, generally speaking, about on a par with any other almost exclusively mercantile community. If they have some little peculiarities, who possess a stronger right to indulge in them than those who own warm hearts and open hands? Witness the RIVAL STARS of China W——m J——e, the Prince of Merchants, and L——t D——t, the Prince of good fellows. If any of my remarks call forth an angry feeling, convert it, gentlemen, into a smile, and have your laugh, as George Chinnery would say, "with me or at me, Sirs."

The mode of life which young men in Canton are almost of necessity obliged to adopt is, of itself, sufficient to stamp them with some peculiarities. Fancy them subjected to the following routine, and think what the effect must be.

A walk in the Factory Square or Company's Garden, the only ground Cantoners have to walk on, or a row on the river, commences the day. Breakfast being then

discussed in pretty rapid style, each individual seeks his desk and there continues till 4 or 5 p. m. deep in the mysteries of Boheas, Opium, Congoes, raw Silk and Sycee. Dinner calls them away, though even its call is sometimes, when business is very urgent, disregarded. After dinner the desk is frequently re-visited, and occupied till a late hour. This routine is sometimes broken in upon by a visit to the Hongs or warehouses, to inspect some of the articles which the young gentlemen have been writing about, and "this is human life!" Hence it is evident that the short time allotted to dinner, and on particular occasions when there is not much business on hand, the evenings afford the only opportunities for improving their minds by conversation, reading or thought. The first necessarily has a considerable bias to that which is technically and vulgarly styled the shop—the second is not much in vogue—books are not very plentiful, and constant confinement to the desk disheartens and renders farther application irksome. There remains thought, but to it too the preceding remarks are equally applicable.

The situation of a stranger among such a society must evidently be not the most agreeable in the world. During the day he is dependent almost solely on himself for amusement and information, surrounded by many whose daily atmosphere is impregnated with the fumes of tea and silver, who dream of nothing but Opium and Sycee, and to whom cent. per cent. is as the breath of their nostrils, he finds that he is out of his element. He cannot bring himself to interrupt his entertainers, busy at their tasks; but roams through Hongs and China streets "unfriended, melancholy, slow!" Nor does evening and dinner much mend the case. The stranger perhaps congratulates himself on the introduction of a subject of general or political interest, but with small reason. Five minutes shows him that

Opium and Canton Boheas are every thing to most of the Anglo-Chinese.

Looking through the telescope of his wishes, hopes, fears and interests, the Cantoner brings his eye to bear just upon that particular branch of the political tree, which bears the fruit of the China Trade. The stranger finds that politics mean China—and that the question to be discussed is whether Mr. J——e is to be appointed Consul, or what may be the opinion of the President of the Board of Control of the trade to N. E. Coast ! These having been duly disposed of, *nemine dissentiente*, (for the satellites of the two great stars do not mix in society, each keeping his own clique around him, and moving “*velut inter ignes luna minores,*”) the conversation takes a fresh turn, but always reverts to the *shop*—to the “*oolung pouchong*” and Fuhkeen Boheas ! This, all the world will allow to be highly interesting to a stranger, especially to those who are desirous of gaining some information regarding China from the old residents, who, he of course expects to be the best qualified. But he finds to his astonishment, that China and its people are generally better known in Europe than to the residents in Canton.

What I have here stated will be sufficient to prove, that China is not an agreeable or desirable residence for a stranger or an invalid. But besides all these *provincialisms*, the peculiar state of society renders it doubly unpleasant. To this I alluded above by mentioning the two rival stars. These are Mr. J——e and Mr. D——t, the heads of the two largest Mercantile houses in China. Long on bad terms, they are each surrounded by a party of his own, and to belong to one is sometimes a warrant of exclusion from the other. Strangers find it very difficult to preserve an unarmed neutrality, and the necessity of being incessantly on their guard to give offence to neither is irksome in the

extreme. It is hard to steer a steady middle course, and frequently of course

“ Incidit in Scyllam, qui vult vitare Charybdis.”

“ He who from Bill J—ne would go”

“ Rans plump against T—m D—t and Co!”

*Free translation..*

With the merits of the difference between the rival houses we have, thank Heaven ! nothing to do. Our concern is with them simply as we found them with regard to society. Hospitable they both are, as their constantly crowded tables will testify. Mr. W—— J——e is a very old resident in China, and is assuredly a talented and princely Merchant. “ King of Canton” is a title occasionally applied to him, though the Chinese distinguish him by harder sounding names. For instance, with reference to some of his speculations, they style him “*the iron-headed old rat,*” alleging, that he not only eat the grain, but, with his iron head, broke the earthen receptacle of it ! Whatever may be his character among the Chinese, he is justly celebrated for his generosity to his own countrymen, (Scotch) in his intercourse with whom he has ever shown himself “*sui profusus.*”

The high estimation in which this gentleman is held has very recently been borne honorable witness to by a body of the Officers of the India Company’s late Naval Service, who have presented Mr. J——e with a very handsome set of plate, which was duly *handseled* on St. Andrew’s evening last, when Mr. J——e had a large party of old Scotia’s sons to dine with him.

Next on the list stands Mr. L —— D——, a gentleman whose generosity, hospitality and bon hommie would disarm the most determined cynic even if the closeness and strictness of his examination did chance to discover a particle of abraded skin obnoxious to the caustic. Pass we on

therefore to Mr. S——W——, an American gentleman, who, to every quality which can make the merchant, unites those which adorn the man.

Mr. R. T——r, the head of the next, or perhaps of the third firm in Canton, is known to many of my readers in India, having been some time, the firm of R——jee, T——r, and Co. of Calcutta. Hard work is taking its effect on this gentleman; may wealth soon render intense application no longer necessary.

The limits of this work will not admit of the enumeration of all the residents in Canton, but I cannot refrain from mentioning my friend Mr. R. I——s, a splendid exception to the rule which I have above laid down. The gentleman and the traveller combine to render him a most entertaining companion, and his and Mr. D——'s examples will, I have no doubt, complete as finished gentlemen my young friends L—— and D——, who both give such rich promise of what they will eventually turn out.

The Company's Finance Committee consists of Messrs. D——, S——th, and A——ll, gentlemen of whom it is necessary to say nothing, as Company's Servants they must be gentlemen, and their own merit is sure to make them favorites with all.

A good anecdote ought never to be lost, and as the second gentleman's name above has just reminded me of one, here goes. Three Messieurs S——th came out in the same ship from England. One who is in the Bengal Civil Service, who was styled Bob S——th, the gentleman above who was known as Nob S——th, and a third also in China who was called Snob S——th. This, on their arrival, was told in China by the third gentleman, who added "Snob S——th, THAT'S ME!" Snob S——th is a *Tea Taster* to Mr. J——e. On some one asking Captain L——s, of the ship the three S——'s came out in, whether he alluded

in conversation to the Factory or Nob S——th, whom he called T. C. S——th? "No," said Captain L. "not T. C. S——th, but C. T. (quasi see Tea) S--th!"

Knight of St. Somebody or other Sir Wm. H——yl—tt, deserves especial notice. Want of time and space must however plead my apology. The best and most indefatigable commission agent, and best tempered of men, this gentleman deserves employment, as he was never known but once *to send home to a lady who wanted flowers,\* a cargo of what he called Terra Japonica!* I trust the "*terra Sinensis*•" may never pillow his *Bœotium caput*!

But we must drop individuals and revert to the society at large. The only public institution in Canton, except the Mercantile Insurance Companies, is the "Union Club," to which I alluded before. This Club was, I. believe, originated by Messrs. I——s and D——l. It consists at present of 15 members, all of whom must be partners in commercial firms. Each of the members by turns entertains at dinner the whole of the Club, and any strangers that may be in Canton at the time. Officers in the E. I. C.'s Civil and Military services are, we believe, eligible as honorary members. No resident, being a principal in a firm and not being a member, can be admitted as a guest. The want of a Club-room operated in some measure in fixing the above restrictions, but it is hoped and expected now that the much regretted India Company's Establishment is broken up, the two large rooms in the British Factory may be procurable by the community as a Club-room and Library, in which too all public meetings might be held. There will then be room sufficient for the largest dinner party Canton can produce and many of the

\* The Lady I suppose commissioned some Camellia Japonicas, the name of which Sir Wm. mistook for Terra Japonica, which, it being the old name for *Catechu*, he may have seen in invoices and bills of lading.

restrictions will doubtless be removed. These Club dinners are the only meetings of the society of Canton, and I cannot but think that the gentlemen who originated the Club deserve the highest consideration from the community. One of these gentlemen has also exerted himself to establish a public Library, but as I noticed before, literature *seems at a discount* among the merchants of Canton.

The very valuable Library of the English Factory has been broken up and the Books divided between the then present members. The constitution of the Library, which was established and maintained by subscription of the Company's servants did, I am told, vest the proprietary rights to the Books in the remaining members of the Factory; but I cannot but think it a pity (to use no stronger term) that those gentlemen decided on breaking up a Library collected at such pains and expence, the loss of which is irremediable in China.

Strangers arriving in Canton usually occupy a room in the house of their friends or agents. By the bye, I omitted to mention, that a stranger's agent or banker is the person who introduces him at the Club. After which, if a Company's servant, he is invited regularly. There is also an Hotel or Tavern kept by Messrs. Markwick and Edwards, and a new one about to be established by Mr. Marks, but I am unable to speak of these from personal observation; the appearance however of the former is far from inviting. The latter had not opened when I left Canton.

Among the houses in Canton, and dividing them into four separate compartments, run two streets called Old and New China streets, and a lane delighting in the euphonious name of "Hog." This latter, to be first treated of, is said to be the haunt of sailors and others from the fleet, and to

contain cook and liquor shops and some others. Its appearance and odour were so strongly against it that I confess I could not muster courage ever to traverse it—therefore the beauties of “Hog Lane” must, for me remain undiscovered and undescribed.

But the China streets are regular curiosities ! Fancy Cranbourne Alley with still smaller shops than are now in it, and each of them exhibiting a collection of articles “that were never dreamed of in thy philosophy,” gentle reader ! but we must take them somewhat in detail. The first shop on your right hand is a China-ware one, kept by the Canton Mr. Spode, Cumshong. On entering, the small verandah presents to your view a collection of jars, large and small, and mugs of every size and description.\*

Inside the shop, rise on three sides, shelves covered with patterns of China-ware of every possible pattern and description, but only one piece of each set. The China is made up the country, I believe at Chinchew, and from thence brought down to Canton. It is then in color blueish white. On a person choosing a pattern and ordering a set, the pattern is sent into the ware-house in the city, where the pattern is painted on it, and the set then baked. This operation occupies about two months. The best China-ware cups have no handles, the reason of which is this. When the metal is soft, the weight of a handle added pulls down the whole texture. To obviate which it is necessary to use a less delicate metal. Besides which, the potter is obliged to give the cup a flatness, to resist the weight of the

\* Utensils of all sorts, even to the “*Urinarium virile et muliebre*,” a distinction which less civilised nations have never made ;—deeming unlike the good Southampton folks, that it was unnecessary, that “*when they had made a hole for the great cat to go through, they must e'en make a hole for the little cat too !*” (*Vide Epigram on the Canal, beginning at “Southampton's Wise Sons !”*)

handle, thus making them oval, a shape which few of them ever entirely get rid of. The prices of China-ware vary so much that no mean can be given of them.

Proceeding down the street we come to shops of silk merchanders; ivory cutters, who make all manner of toys, cut seals, &c.; bird fanciers, where the stranger sees Mandarin ducks, golden pheasants, blue magpies, orioles and parrots. Innumerable portrait painters where the human face divine of all his China acquaintances, and the likeness of every thing on heaven and earth and the waters under it—many of them more remarkable for beauty of coloring than delicacy of subject—are multiplied ad infinitum by the powers of "*imitatorum servum pecus.*" By the bye, if a stranger visits perhaps Lamqua's (the Sir Thos. Lawrence of China-street) shop, he may perceive a colored print on the wall. In every successive shop he will perceive a Chinese copy of the same—not taken from the print, which the first only copied and lent his picture to his friend or pupil, who kindly does the same by *his* protégé, and so on till the engraver or painter himself would scarce know what was meant to be represented! The same system is pursued with portraits—to which the reader has to attribute a sad loss, namely, the absence of the light of our countenance at the frontispiece of this volume. Our modesty might have been overcome so far as to sit to Lamqua, but we could not bring ourselves to submit to the martyrdom of having *our head taken off* by every ambitious son of a paint-brush in the Chinese Academy—who though they may be "angels" at asses are assuredly asses at "angels."\*

\* Witness the portrait of Mr. P——y, (not the one by Lamqua but Soongwas) of which a friend of ours made the following remark—author loquitur. "Is not that like P——y, of Pinang? but that the mouth is *too big*." "Yes" replied our friend. "He looks as if he was going to speak!"

Next come sombre looking shops, but probably far richer than the more showy ones, I mean the silk merchants. The Chinese keep every article beautifully packed in paper and pasted. Besides which the silk is all kept in wardrobes (or almirahs) on the walls, and these usually kept locked, as the smallest damp injures the silk materially.

Silversmiths' shops are frequent. The display in them is neither great nor rich, but the owners are very good workmen.

The lacquered-ware shops present some of the most pleasing features, but the ware itself is now so common that nothing need be said about it.

A sweetmeat shop or two, a few tailors' and curiosity shops (called by the Chinese Curio shops) complete the China street establishments—in one or other of these shops almost every necessary and luxury (except edible and potable) is procurable.

A stranger will be surprised at the rapidity and ease with which the traders here calculate the prices of articles sold or bought without the aid of figures. They use a species of abacus, a counting board or "*swan-pan*" as they term it, composed of a case containing many rods, on each of which there are several sliding knobs. These they call units, tens, hundreds, thousands, &c. and add or subtract very rapidly by sliding the knobs up or down the rods.

Besides these China streets there are several between the city walls and the Factories which foreigners frequent, though with the exception of the Hongs, and perhaps the *Curiō* shops no purchases can, I believe, be made at any of the shops. Whether this is from the foreigners' ignorance of the language, from distrust or fear on the part of the Chinese, or from a prohibition of the Viceroy, I cannot say. Some of the manufactures of the Chinese are ingenious enough. They blow their glass in large cylinders,—then

with Indian ink mark the size of the panes required, and cut them with a diamond. They are then in a semi-circular shape. To straighten them they have a flat stone with a long iron handle to it suspended in front of the furnace. The glass being laid upon that is introduced into the furnace and heated, when hot it is withdrawn, and another stone passed over the concave surface which flattens it at once. This glass is unannealed and consequently of no strength, nevertheless it answers for common purposes well enough.

The mode of preparing the lead for lining tea chests is also ingenious. The lead is melted in a large cauldron. On the ground is a flat stone, a foot square, covered with paper, fastened to it with gum. Above it is another similar stone but with the paper on the under side. Some powder being cast on the paper to prevent the adhesion of the lead, the caster leaning back lifts the upper stone on which he stands with his left hand, and with his right taking a ladle full of molten lead quickly throws it between the stones, and instantly quits his hold of the upper and inclines his body forward, bringing down the upper stone. By this the lead is flattened. A second individual with a shears cuts off the superfluous metal, but so expert are the casters that they seldom take up any more or less than the exact quantity required.

The spangle manufactories are also well worth inspection, and several others which I have not room minutely to notice.

These streets are known to Europeans by names given them from the nature of the shops they contain. Thus *Physic Street* contains the Druggists and Curio shops—*Paunch Alley* is the market place—Manufactory Road is a long narrow lane, containing half the manufactories in Canton,—*Marriage Paraphernalia Street* (as my facetious

friend Mr. H——y calls it) explains itself; as does Copper Street and Cap Street, the latter formerly known as Mandarin Cap Alley. But of all the streets "Squeeze Gut Alley" is by far the worst. It is certainly not *three feet* broad. The entrance however satisfied me as I scarcely deemed myself a fit subject for an experiment, the alley being pointed out to me when returning one night from a chop stick dinner.

A chop stick dinner! I hear a reader exclaim "what can chopping sticks have to do with dinner?" A chop stick is a small thin round stick of wood, ivory, bone or silver, of which a Chinese forms the two arms of a pair of nippers, his hand acting as joint, and with which he eats every article of food, even rice. The Hong merchants and others occasionally give dinners to the foreigners at which no knives, forks or European fashions are used, and the chop sticks are plied by foreigner as well as Chinese. The following is a description of a small and comparatively private one.

We went at 5 p. m. to the house of one of the most respectable and worthy of the H<sup>o</sup>ng merchants to dinner, and spent a very agreeable hour in walking over the gardens, which with their endless variety of buildings, grottoes, rock work, water, gold fish, bridges, &c. put us much in mind of *an old China plate!* The dinner at 6 was magnificent, eight of us, our host being the only Chinaman, sat at a round table. In front of each was a pair of chop sticks, a spoon, a small silver waiter, a silver saucer full of soy, and one empty, and a richly gilt silver cup with an elegant stand. Round the table forming a circle were placed several small dishes, containing fish, shrimps, salads of various kinds, venison, *roasted worms*, mutton and other meats—which we had recourse to from

time to time as an interlude. The awkwardness of us strangers at first using the chop sticks afforded much amusement. But the difficulty is easily overcome. Each course, of which there were about 30, consisted of one pint silver bowl of viands into which each plunged his chop sticks or spoon, according to whether meat, fish, jelly, soup or vegetables composed the dish. Birds' nests from Java, bich de mer, turtle, land tortoise, shark's fins, fish maws and every other Chinese delicacy had a place, but a dish of pigeons' eggs, fried whole and served in a very rich gravy, was the most inviting. The bich de mer I tasted, and pronounced abominable, and the *roasted worms* could not tempt us, though some of the party pronounced them excellent. Soup, in small bowls, was given to each person twice during the dinner, with which are handed forced meat balls of the most delicate flavor, enveloped in a thin and very nice paste, which serves like a veil of gossamer, just to heighten the effect of the beauties under it! Some of these balls are sweet and some acid to suit the various tastes of the guests. SOOEE-HING,\* (the Chinese white wine) was freely handed round during the dinner and after, and not less than 40 cups must have been drank by each individual ; the cup holding perhaps, in the Chinese mode of filling it, two-thirds of a wine glass. When challenged by the host or any other Chinese to drink wine, it is the fashion in the best society, to take the small cup by both ears or handles—to drink the wine off simultaneously and then with a bow turn the inside of the cup full front to your compotator, to show that due honor has been done to his health by not a single drop being left in the goblet ! The dinner concluded with a course of eight dishes of meats, and then rice was called for, which was hand-

\* Tshampu is the spirit of the Chinese.

ed in small bowls to each of the party. This, here as in other oriental countries, implies "hold; enough!" and my readers will probably think the call might have been made earlier with advantage. More Sooee-hing healths, fruit, pipes and cigars and the company of two of the host's grandchildren concluded the evening, and at about 10 p. m. we all returned home highly gratified, as I trust my readers too will be, with our chop stick dinner.

Among our host's grandchildren was one who had just reached that unhappy age which subjects the female children of the rich, ambitious and respectable to the torture of the bandage. One of the girls, about eleven years old, was just about having the bandages removed, which twelve months before had been applied for the first time, to fore-shorten the-at-all-times diminutive foot of a Chinese beauty to the crippled state which fashion led the Chinese to adopt in imitation of a deformed queen, and policy has since induced the men to encourage, as it prevents their wives from wandering far from home !

As the pendent to the dinner my readers may perhaps like to hear how they smoke opium in the Celestial Empire. The opium room contains a low table with pipes and opium, and a peculiar kind of lamp upon it. This table is flanked by two couches, on one of which the smoker reclines. The person who acts as pipe-preparer takes a pipe which is a stick about one and a half foot long, and about three inches from the end of which is screwed into it a bowl having a very small orifice in the centre of the top.

He also takes a long, slender silver wire, and the latter being dipped into the opium, a quantity of the drug, about a pea in size, is taken up on the point of it, gradually heated in the lamp and each time it blazes rammed into the orifice of the pipe. When all the opium has been thus

introduced, the smoker, reclining on his side, puts the orifice in the bowl of the pipe to the candle and inhales, or rather inspires, the smoke, letting it not into his mouth only but into his lungs. The bystander watches, and if the opium flames he instantly quenches the flame by putting the silver wire into the orifice. This process is repeated till the pipe becomes empty. The opium is prepared for smoking by boiling and purifying, till it weighs only about one-third of its original weight.

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## C H A P T E R III.

## CANTON—PART II.

FAH-TE.—Every visitor shortly after his arrival is taken to see the Fah-te Gardens. They are worth looking at *in China*, but would not be any where else. They are a row of nursery gardens in which are orange and other fruit trees, flowers, the dwarf elm and various diminutive trees which are the delight of a Chinaman, having the appearance of old age with the stature of infancy, but all so exactly alike even to the far from pleasant scent of the soil and ponds of water, that when you have seen one you have seen all. The most tasteful decoration we observed at Fah-te were the water spouts, which might be advantageously imitated in India. Instead of a long leaden pipe or still worse looking *red* earthen-ware one, the Chinese water spout is made of earthen-ware, cast in a mould in lengths of two feet each, the outer surface being made to represent a bamboo, which, however stiff it may appear in our drawing, has a very neat, nay elegant effect when well executed. Fah-te is about three miles above Canton on a branch of the river. Foreigners are allowed to visit it only on particular days, and then not above a certain number. It is a great haunt of the Chinese ladies, especially at the time of the new year, which is almost the only holiday this industrious people allow themselves. The festivities at that season are, I am told, grand, and I regretted not being able to witness them.

The only exhibitions of this kind I witnessed were the Feast of Lamps and another. The illuminations at the first were splendid. The streets were covered with cloth roofs and then bamboos fixed across them, from which depended at intervals of about six feet, glass chandeliers of coarse manufacture, in fives, each holding about a dozen oil burners. In front of each house or shop was hung up a small stage containing a group or pair of puppets capitally executed, and which were occasionally set in motion. These represented some scene, usually a domestic one, and not always remarkable for delicacy, but to the expression of the passions and other feelings conveyed by the features, no words can do justice. Amongst others one group drew every eye. A party of four young ladies were seen reading a book which they appeared highly to enjoy. The obvious inference was that it was not written by Confucius, nor did it treat of *religion*. The husband of one of the ladies having entered the room is slyly peeping over the shoulders of the group. The countenances were so striking, the cunning leer of the man, and the blessed and unconscious ignorance of his proximity in the ladies, that every passer by, from the Mandarin to the coolie, burst into laughter on seeing it. Neither could we refrain, and the sound of our *cachinnation* drew the eyes of the mob, who immediately exclaimed "That must be a good one, see how amused the *fankweis* (foreign devils) are!" It is necessary, in visiting exhibitions of this kind, to be careful of any property you may have about you, as a Chinese mob are no respecters of persons, and you get considerably jostled. It is also advisable to wear gloves to guard against *contagion*, as the Chinese are very filthy, and the motto of their chief scourge is "*Nemo me impune lacescit!*" But they seem goodnatured enough, and were it not for the Mandarins, we think, are disposed to treat foreigners with kindness and

attention. Rude they are in the extreme, but it is the result of ignorance not design. In proof of this I may mention, that I went one evening at 8 p. m. upstairs into one of their largest and most frequented eating-houses, where I was kindly received by the company, and the landlord hospitably placed before me tea-cups, tea, a plate of ground nuts, chesnuts and various kinds of sweetmeats, for which he would accept no remuneration. The company vacated seats for me, and I was highly amused by watching the mode of drinking their hot tea and *Samshoo* (or distilled liquor) equally hot, by alternate cups-full. In an inner room, at a small table, was eating the largest man I ever saw—(T——y was a feather to him !) and at another table a dinner party were enjoying themselves, sitting “*in puris naturalibus*,” as is the custom here, and an obviously necessary one too, where so much hot liquor is consumed so rapidly to the evident increase of perspiration.

The next exhibition I was at was an illumination, 15th October being Chung-tsew, or mid-autumn festival, at which each individual endeavours to hoist his lanthorn as high as possible ; some are at an immense height, and the sight of the whole city thus illuminated, many of the more distant lamps appearing like stars, is very picturesque.

Although the Chinese have several festivals which they celebrate, they are far from a religious people. The Priests are the lowest, filthiest and most disreputable class in the country. Budhism seems the creed by law established, but all religions are tolerated. The priests of Budh inhabit monasteries, and in their dress, forms of worship, &c., ape the Roman Catholics. They are a despised and abject race, chiefly composed of those whose crimes have obliged them to take sanctuary in a Joss-house and cut off their *pig-tails* or long queues, which act at once saves their lives, but converts them into monks. Their time in

their monasteries seems a round of eating, chanting and gambling. The Budhist religion seems, judging from appearance, to require no ceremonies from the laity but an occasional *Sing-song*, or drama, and a few offerings. There are a considerable number of Roman Catholics both in Macao and all over the Celestial empire, and I was told by a respectable Mahomedan in Canton, that the number of the " Faithful" in that that city (Chinese) was no less than 6000.

I had almost omitted to notice the Chinese drama. Not knowing ten syllables of the language I cannot be a competent judge of it; any thing said on this head must therefore be taken as hearsay, and not the fruit of my own observation. Theatrical representations are very frequent. Indeed joy, grief, and every thing else, even to the appeasing a supposed affronted deity is all done by a *Sing-song*, (a drama.) The subjects of these are all historical. The language is not the vernacular, but the Mandarin dialect, which is unknown to upwards of three-fourths of the audience; nevertheless the mobocracy delight in a *Sing-song* as much as their brethren of London do in a bull-bait.\* The plays are tiresomely long; indeed one, I imagine, must lead into the other. Talma and Kean would be thought but little of here, where even the meanest performer, without the aid of a prompter, never misses a word of his part which he represents to the life, except that the voices are all in falsetto. This is a peculiarity of the Chinese stage. Men and women's parts are taken indiscriminately by the actors, who, from the peculiar shape of their features and their clean tonsure, are very rapidly transmogrified from one sex

\* We do not say which is the most rational—going to listen to a play of which you do not understand a word, or causelessly tormenting a beast that never hurt you !

into the other. I believe the actors to be a distinct race by themselves. Certain it is there is much similarity of voice and feature amongst them, and the very low estimation in which they are held, (ranking in the lowest class but one, of society,) renders it improbable that any one would embrace the profession from choice. Besides, they are nearly all expected to exhibit as tumblers, rope dancers, &c., and their tumbling certainly surpasses every thing of the kind I ever witnessed. They have a jester always on the stage, who usually concludes each scene by coming forward and repeating a joke or couplet within the comprehension of the audience, and in the vernacular tongue, and his speech is always hailed with a laugh. The theatrical combats are highly ridiculous. Each warrior has invariably two swords;—women fight as well as, or better than the men; during the combats each fighter throws half a dozen somersets, frequently jumping over his assailant's head. I once witnessed the death of one of these ladies of grief;—a broken heart. The news of her husband's death being brought her, she started from her chair, uttered a most piteous exclamation, and then “duplices tendens ad sidera palmas,” with the dignity of a Queen and the agility of a Columbine, tossed her feet fairly over her head and came down on the stage perfectly dead! Songs, (shades of Incledon and Braham ! pardon the term !) such as they are, help to enliven the performances, but at best they are very wearisome; and lest my courteous readers (mild though they be as the “ghasmerich” of their vales, and forbearing as the tigers of Bengal) should be quite wearied, I will change the scene from fiction to reality.

The city of Canton is divided into two parts, the old and new, both of which are within the walls, and separated by a wall from each other. The former is held and garrisoned

by the Mantchow Tatar general and his troops; the latter is the abode of the Fooyuen, or lieutenant governor, and the Hoppo, or controller of customs.

The walls are high and very thick, and within them foreigners are not permitted to go ; the parts frequented by them being the streets between the city walls and the factories. But I was inside them on two occasions ; the first on the occurrence of a large fire, and the second on presenting a petition at the gate. On the former occasion the fire broke out, within the walls, early in the evening, and spread rapidly in spite of all endeavours on the part of the Chinese to delay or arrest its progress. The nature of the buildings and their proximity render a fire doubly destructive, and the foreign factories having been once or twice before burned, all hands were on the alert. First every thing of value in the factories was made ready for instant removal in case the fire should reach the houses ; and boats were kept in readiness.\* Then all the foreigners who were not occupied about their own goods proceeded in small parties to different parts of the fire, which had now spread over a very great extent of ground ; threatening the warehouses full of Tea of the Hong Merchants ; destroying one of the city gates and advancing with giant strides to the gate nearest the factories. It had now become so serious that the Mandarins and others made no attempt to stop Europeans at the gates. In they went, and a few moments showed the value of them. Wherever a European eye directed the fire-engine, or wherever a European arm was raised to rend a tottering wall, the fire in some measure yielded. In other places it

\* Indeed one gentleman, Mr. L——n, carried his foresight so far as to go and sleep in his boat, having embarked every thing *even to the brass plate off his door* ; which some wag observing, immediately marked as “*to let, unfurnished.*”

raged as furious as ever ; but the alacrity of the Chinese in obeying instructions, and the total absence of any thing like insult, which would at any other moment have been heaped upon them, showed that they had already had reason to admire, and benefit by the skill and exertions of Europeans in previous fires, and trusted them accordingly. The scene altogether was a strange one, and argued very highly in favor of the Police of Canton. All through the city and suburbs there was a constant tide of human life pouring rapidly. Coolies laden with *banghies* and every sort of article, light or heavy, worthless or valuable, and literally racing along the narrow streets, few of which, if any, are more than a few feet in breadth, in two counter currents, one going one way, and the other, the other. It would be utterly impossible to form anything like a correct guess of the probable number of persons on foot that night ; but it must have been immense, as every street and alley throughout the city and suburbs was literally full of them ; so that it was a service of danger to cross the street from one of the rapid passing currents into the other. Throughout this dense crowd, there was not an individual that I observed unarmed. All had some weapon, and the generality of the coolies had the usual *two swords*, which, with their *fire caps* and paper lanterns, give them a somewhat pleasing appearance of uniformity. But the color of the caps, which are shaped like cones and painted red and yellow, together with the discordant sounds, the shouts, the confusion, and above all the glare of torches, lanthorns and the fierce-blazing fire, which made the whole as clear as noon day, suggested to my mind the picture of an auto da fe, or a tartarus, rather than an orderly city ruled by a Police inferior to none in the world. That this assertion, broad though it be, is nothing but the truth, must be evident to every one who has ever visited China ; and two

very strong proofs of the goodness of the Police is, that in spite of all the wealth of a vastly rich city, being the whole of that night of the fire in the streets, and a very numerous and powerful mob, every individual of it with arms in his hands, being on foot, not a single robbery was known to have been committed. In spite of the mob, usually represented as so hostile to foreigners, being all up and armed, and those foreigners scattered by ones, twos and threes among them; when the crowd was so dense that a quiet stab might have disposed of any of those foreigners and rendered detection next to impossible, not an insult was offered to any of them.\* By four in the morning the fire had reached the wall close to the gate leading to the factories. The wall, in this part about forty feet thick, presented a singular spectacle. Women and children, many of them with their feet bandaged after the barbarous fashion which obtains in China, and consequently quite unable to walk, or keep their footing in a rapidly moving crowd, were huddled together with their valuables on the top of it, watching with tearful eyes the destruction of their houses, and the loss of everything they possessed in the world but their lives, and the few valuables they had in their haste managed to snatch up. But the thick wall resisted the further progress of the fire, which the exertions of the foreigners at length brought under at eight o'clock in the morning, it having destroyed fourteen hundred houses. Ten or twelve persons were said to have been burned; but this report was not subsequently confirmed, and the only well known accidents were

\* Sir W. H.—It is true got a blow with a ratan across the eyes for trying to force a passage near one of the city gates, but this was from the Mandarin at the gate in keeping back the crowd, not from any of the mob; and was most likely accidental, as the foreigners were treated throughout with the greatest respect.

one man nearly killed by a wall falling on him, and an old woman trodden to death in the crowd. The damage was stated at a very large sum ; vast warehouses containing woollens and sandal-wood having been destroyed. The most celebrated Church in Canton (i. e. the Joss House of the Chin Chew Merchants) very narrowly escaped through the promptitude and exertions of Mr. L. D—t. This loss would have been irreparable. So great a fire has not occurred in Canton for many years ; indeed it was inferior to none save the vast one which destroyed the factories in 1822. That fires are not of more frequent occurrence seems singular, considering the peculiar nature of the north wind which there prevails in the cold season. Blowing from the snowy regions of Tartary, it possesses a drying power equal if not superior to that of our hot winds in Hindostan, the effects of each are the same in taking off the skin of the face, chopping the lips and hands, making furniture crack and rendering every thing highly inflammable.

The next occasion of my visiting the city was to present a petition. When redress for a real or supposed injury can no otherwise be obtained, it is usual for a body of the foreigners in Canton to assemble at one of the gates of the city, and there remain, clamouring for justice until the Viceroy sends some officer to receive their petition. This is usually had recourse to if the Hong Merchants refuse to forward the petition, there being but these two modes of access to the authorities. On the present occasion an officer of the ship "Fairy Queen" was on his way up to Canton with the ship's packets of letters, in a China boat, a mode of conveyance well known to be illegal. He was seized and detained at one of the Bogue Forts, and neither he nor the letters could be got. After a great deal of expostulation the Hong Merchants persisting in refusing the petition for his release, it was resolved to have recourse to

"the gate," and about sixty gentlemen with the petition started at eleven o'clock at a round trot to reach the city before information of their approach could be given and the gate be closed by the guards. A run of near a mile brought the party to the gate, and a rush with two or three blows with sticks carried the gate house; half the party remained here which was the legal course, and the other half foolishly rushed through the gate, and endeavoured to penetrate to the Viceroy's house. In the meantime the soldiers began to muster from all quarters, arms were served out, the walls manned, and the red faces of the troops showed that they had been screwing up their courage by "painting the tiger."\* The city party returned in about an hour, having accomplished nothing but shewing their own weakness, and the party at the gate had some difficulty in maintaining their position and effecting a junction of forces. The Chinese soldiers certainly showed great forbearance—but it has often been observed that however much he may flourish his sword or bow, the Chinaman seldom strikes the first blow. God knows they frequently had provocation enough! By the bye, one band of their warriors, and not the least formidable in a street disturbance, were singularly armed, viz. with long stiff bamboos, sharpened at the end like spears; a row of which present a most fearful obstacle to an attacking party, and would do serious damage if used offensively. After a stay of some time at the gate a petty† Mandarin arrived whose

\* "Painting the tiger" is the Canton Chinese term for smoking opium to intoxication, taken I believe, from the singular color which every Chinaman's face assumes from opium or wine taken in a large dose, viz. a deep pink! It is an infallible mark.

† Mandarin is derived from the Portuguese word "Mandar," and is used for any person "commissioned" to perform a duty. The Chinese word is "Quan."

rank was not deemed high enough to qualify him to receive the petition. He accordingly returned, and sometime afterwards the *Quanheep* (Military Commandant) and other officers arrived. His appearance was undignified in the extreme, and being newly appointed his person was unknown; so doubts were entertained whether he was “the real Simon Pure,” or a coolie dressed up, after the Chinese fashion, to mystify the *fankweis*! He too was obliged to go away without the petition, and at 2 p. m. I followed his example, having seen quite enough of the mild and peaceable way the foreigners in Canton petition for redress of grievances! The petition was subsequently, I heard, given to this officer, and a promise made that the officer of the Fairy Queen should be released, which was accordingly done, *before the account of the business could have reached the place of his confinement!* The Hong Merchants in all probability had to pay his ransom, Sp. Drs. 500—as a punishment for the violence of the barbarians, the Government always holding them and the Linguists responsible for all deeds of violence on the part of foreigners! Several blows were exchanged during the day, and two officers of ships were severely hurt.

The fire, and the subsequent gate affair, afford good opportunities of judging of the respective bearing of the Chinese and the foreigners towards each other. My readers will of course form their own opinion, whether the former exhibited sufficient forbearance, and whether the latter behaved in the manner in which a small body of merchants residing by sufferance only, in a foreign country, ought to do!

The Chinese pretend to trace back their existence as a nation, to a very remote period, and commence their Chronological table 3254 years before Christ, or 906 before the deluge recorded by Moses! With these fables I

have nothing to do; but I cannot omit mentioning the following events as they may amuse and perhaps lead to some interesting speculations. The building of their great wall they date B. C. 200.

B. C. 50.—In the habit of sending persons abroad to invite foreigners “whose pearls and merchandise began to enter China.” Some vessels arrived, which had been four or five months on their passage.

A. D. 160.—In the time of Hwan-te, India, Ta-tsin (i. e. Egypt or Arabia) and other nations came by the southern or China sea with tribute, and from this time trade with foreigners was carried on at Canton.

A. D. 1275.—Machines called “*fire engines*,” in use, the powder made of saltpetre, sulphur and willow charcoal.

This last is evidently gunpowder. Are we to believe that it was in use in China at so early a period? or shall we condemn the whole record as a tissue of fiction? Again, who were the nations that sent pearls and gold to China 50 years before the birth of Christ? Came they from India, or Africa? If the former, it is improbable even at that period that a nation who could cross the Indian ocean would take so long performing the voyage up the China sea, if that was their route, which the subsequent notice rather tends to disprove. But leaving all these remote occurrences out of the question, I will content myself with mentioning that China like India and many other countries, has been at various times overrun and subjugated by invading Tatar tribes, each of which was again conquered by succeeding ones. A similar course of events occurred in Europe, but the invaders there were Goths, Vandals, Lombards, and Danes; and in one or two

instances Saracens. The last invasion of China was A. D. 1618, when a body of Tatars from Manchowria seized possession of the Government which they have ever since retained. For several years subsequent to the invasion, the last king of the Chinese dynasty Ming, opposed the Tatars but without avail ; and in 1643 Sunche, the first Emperor of the present Tatar dynasty, (Ta-tsing) ascended the throne and imposed upon the vanquished the mark of degradation which they to this day retain, namely, shaving their heads after the Tatar fashion and wearing the long queues, which distinguish this nation from all the rest of the world. From that period to the present the Tatars have steadily and consistently pursued a “divide et impera” course of conduct, to which is mainly attributable the maintenance of their power. Chinese are as much employed as Tartars in the offices of State and Government, but the power is so nicely balanced, and the Tatar is so played against the Chinese, and Chinese against Tatar, that no formidable power or influence can be acquired by either without the knowledge of the other.

The long continuance of Tatar rule has proved the goodness of this system, and the Tatars know that nothing is so likely to overturn it and render vain their policy, as freedom of intercourse between the governed and more numerous body and the foreigners who frequent Canton, more especially the British. Our name is known ; our position in India stands as an open record before them to warn them against permitting us to plant the “premier pas” of encroachment. Hence the apparent harshness of their conduct towards foreigners, and their forbiddance of trade with any port but Canton. And surely we have no right to force them to open their ports. If they do oppress the foreigners, which I am far from admitting (beyond certain slights and insults, which in most cases the parties

bring on themselves) have they not cause? 1st. We have no *right* to constant residence in Canton,—it is contrary to their laws. 2dly. We have no *right* to smuggle Opium into the country. 3dly. We have no right to export sycee or metals ;—they are contraband, as also silk beyond 100 piculs per ship, and we certainly have no right to insult any friendly nation by sending ships under the British flag to her coasts, to land and dispose of cargoes, and communicate with the natives (contrary to their laws) doctrines which are most decidedly seditious, and distribute books which they deem heretical. Besides I have already shewn that apprehension of our power occasions the peculiar behaviour of the Chinese towards us, to which they are incited by the Tatars.

The Chinese themselves appear an enterprising, ingenuous and laborious race of men, inferior to few in personal strength, individual courage, or activity. They have profited much in their arts and manufactures by their intercourse with Europeans, and their own spirit of enterprise would soon lead them to throw off the trammels of old customs, were it not that they are prevented by the Tatar Government. That Government dreads the effect that free intercourse with foreigners (especially the British, and the Americans or “*second chop Englishmen!*” as they call them,) would have on the Chinese. It is then their chief aim and object to prevent that intercourse, and how do they accomplish it, for it certainly is done?

1st. They lower us in the estimation of the Chinese by calling us names—the letter or symbol *E*, which assuredly conveys a most offensive meaning; is used in all government edicts, &c. Thoughtless people (and they are the most numerous,) women, children, and fools (a large majority indeed !) take up the name as a matter of course, and a Chinese child of four years old would be as

much ashamed of not being able to call a foreigner a “*fankwee*, as a school boy in England of being ignorant of the newest slang term. So far then the Government succeeds in its aim, as what is grafted on the infant stem is not easily eradicated.

\* “ Sung tiaou tsung siaou gou,” says the Chinese proverb, and it is fact too. But still, were intercourse at all free, time and our superior knowledge, skill, and the undoubted probity and good faith which characterize most of our dealings with this nation, would have an effect on the Chinese character. It therefore becomes necessary to interpose another barrier, and that is thus accomplished. Certain individuals are appointed to have intercourse with foreigners, through whom every thing must be transacted. These are Hong Merchants, Linguists, Compradores, &c. and the whole of these are responsible in person and property, not only for their own good conduct but for that of the foreigners. Nothing can be done without them, and the Government attains its end. In spite however of every improvement, the Chinese have profited by their intercourse with us. Look at any of the shops in the Carpenter’s square. Whence came the model of that fire engine? From London. Go to the glass blower’s, ask him where he learned the improvements in his art? “ From the *fankwees*.” This they are ready enough to allow, as long as their national pride is not stirred up. Touch his country, touch his honor. Believing or pretending to believe himself in his capacity of “ Chinaman *nemini secundus*” in science, arts, arms, personal strength, or mental acquirements, the pride of a Chinaman is as easily roused as the malice of a devil, or the nationality of

\* Mulberry slip accords with its youthful bent.—*Translation*.

As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined.—*Eng. Proverb*.

a Scot. When the first steamer (I think it was the Forbes) from Calcutta, appeared in China, the Chinese used to be occasionally addressed with "There, you have nothing like that in your country." The invariable answer was "*Much finer ones up at Pekin!*" Show a Chinaman any rare article, and ask if he ever saw any such, he will always reply "*None down here, plenty up at Pekin!*" This very pride and the emulation it will occasion, will eventually lead them to throw off the *incubus* under which they at present labor. But it must be the work of time, not of a moment, and we ought to promote it as much as possible by taking every opportunity of shewing that we are not the harsh, wild set of "Barbarians" the Tatars now and with some justice, call us. On the whole, I cannot but consider the Chinese individually and collectively capable of very great improvement. What degree of civilisation in domestic affairs they may have attained to, I have no means of judging, and their literature is a "stumbling block to the Gentiles, and to the Greeks foolishness." In proof of this witness the translation of "*The affectionate pair, or the History of Sung-kin,*" a Chinese tale, by P. P. Thoms, London, 1820, and other works by the same gentleman. I have already mentioned the reasons for any hardships to which foreigners are subjected by the Tatar authorities. Let us consider whether they are provoked or not, bearing in mind the old proverb regarding "throwing stones" and "glass houses."

In the first place, the Chinese nation as represented by its Government, the only part with which we as a nation have any thing to do, professes to have no wish to receive our visits or engage in commerce with us, but yet permits us to trade with certain individuals under particular restrictions. They stipulate that, the trade for each season being completed, we shall depart till next year, and

that in lieu of our imports (being legal ones) we shall be at liberty to receive all the productions of the country except certain prohibited articles. These are the terms on which we have for many years been permitted to trade at Canton. How are the stipulations respected?

1st. We import Opium to an immense amount, violating the laws of the Empire, encouraging her own subjects to violate them, and poisoning thousands of her people.

2dly. Our Merchants reside all the year round in Canton.

3dly. We invade the ports of the North Eastern shores of China.

4thly. We export Gold and Silver (Sycee) and exceed the due quantity of Silk (100 piculs) allowed to be taken away in each ship.

All these are in breach of the terms tacitly understood as the basis of our trade, not to say any thing of ships exchanging cargoes at Lintin to defraud the Government of their measurement dues, which if counted fair, the opposite party are at all events entitled to similar indulgence. But one aggression is worse than all. Can or will any one venture to assert that any laws, human or divine, could justify the French or Italians in sending ships to the coasts of England and distributing tracts for the purpose of converting the English to the Roman Catholic faith or in landing cargoes of missionaries on our shores? Would there not be an outcry immediately? Would it not be urged that the law of nations was infringed? Then what right have we to act such a part towards a nation at peace with us, and which *does* permit us to trade with her in as far as her Government deems it to her advantage? and what nation in the world goes beyond that? *None!*

The common argument used by the partisans of violence, who would have the British flag employed to protect the

illicit trade of those who never were chary of the British name or honor, is that China is not within the pale of international law. Suppose that to be the case, does the ignorance or the misconduct of the Chinese afford a cause for the wilful disregard of justice by the British or any other nation ? Heaven preserve us from the man who would maintain such a doctrine ! But look to the fact. What excludes China from the benefit of international law ? Not surely the absence of foreign envoys from her, and of her's from foreign Courts ? Not, I trust, her not throwing open all her ports to European ships ? The former, has it ever been demanded of her ? The latter, is she not the best judge of ? and has she not a right to sanction trade only in as far as it is for her benefit, when she asks no similar indulgences in return ? If England at the *request of China* admitted her vessels into British ports she might have a right to demand equivalent freedom of intercourse with China. But at present she has none; let the terms of trade be settled by treaty, but let not England again, as in Lord Napier's appointment, *invade the coasts of an ally*, and that without any notice given or leave asked, establish Civil and Criminal Courts, levy taxes and proclaim an Admiralty jurisdiction for one hundred miles round her shores ! Was ever a more violent aggression heard of than such a Commission as this, and that too without any notice given to the Government of China, leave asked, or intimation sent.

Foreigners tax the Chinese with cruelty and oppression towards them in various instances, let us examine the grounds. Three cases fell under my own immediate notice while in China, and I think my readers will agree with me that in all the punishment received was merited.

The first was the case alluded to above of the "Fairy Queen's" officer, who would have been seized in any

country in the world for acting as he did, knowingly and wilfully endeavouring to reach Canton by an unlawful mode of conveyance.

The second instance, which occurred by the bye, antecedent to the former one, was the adventure of a Mr. T——m. This gentleman is one of the few who is endeavouring to raise the British character by the study of the Chinese language, a pursuit the neglect of which and their total ignorance of the habits, and manners and customs of the people, is far from creditable to the foreign residents in China, most of whom have hitherto rested content in their ignorance, because the knowledge was not absolutely requisite for the acquirement of money. Mr. T——m was persuaded one evening to venture on board a *flower boat* from the Upper Provinces, in hopes no doubt of inspecting some of the “*golden lilies*” of Nankin ! But, be the motive what it might, he was there discovered and seized, chained, kept in “durance vile,” and otherwise roughly treated for three or four days. His captors endeavoured to “*squeeze*” him (as extortion is termed in China,) but were too wise to accept an order on the “iron headed old rat.” At length Mr. J——e procured his release, and it was stated that Mr. T——m had been—not in the hands of the Police—but in those of a gang of river robbers. If so, the authorities were not to blame. If the contrary, Mr. T——m at all events drew it on himself. He knew the *flower boats* and their inmates were not for the accommodation of “*barbarians*,” and the risk that he ran in hunting for sweets amongst forbidden flowers !

The third case was this. The morning subsequent to the fire described above, several parties of Europeans taking advantage of the confusion and stupor of the Chinese who had scarcely recovered from their fright, went into and through the city unmolested and returned safely.

Upon this, three gentlemen thought they might attempt an exploit of a similar nature, and they accordingly started and walked round a full half of the city *outside the walls*, unquestioned, until they reached a village at the N. E. corner of it, the haunt of notorious plunderers, and which no foreigner had ever passed with impunity. Here they were assailed by a gang of about fifty men, who beat two who resisted, and robbed them of a watch, rings, seals, and other ornaments. The third, who was very short-sighted, had his spectacles snatched off his face, but, offering no resistance, he was not otherwise maltreated. Here again the aggression was on the part of the foreigners, who knew they ought not to have gone where they did ; indeed so sensible were they of the risk they incurred that one of the gentlemen expostulated with the others, but was overruled by the assurance his turning back would not prevent the others, who had resolved on *trying their luck*, from proceeding.

This brings us most naturally to the behaviour of the Chinese to foreigners. They permit us to live all the year in Canton, although contrary to express regulation, which lays down that the ships shall come, load and depart, and *then* all foreigners go away until the following season.

They allow us to *talk large* to them ; nay, to treat them excessively cavalierly, in various ways.

They take no notice of a blind beggar getting his head broke by the blow of the heavy stick.\*

They permit the packet boats to ply, though illegal, between Macao and Canton. Nay I am certain they w<sup>o</sup>uld permit almost any thing that was not made purposely offensive, or too grossly manifested.

\* This occurred, not by any means for the first time, just before I left China.

What makes them act thus? "*Fear of our power!*" I have heard it said. National fear it must be then—they can have no fear of the few foreigners in China whom an edict would deprive of servants, and food and every necessary of life; and the smallest popular commotion, which a wink from the Viceroy would in a moment excite, of life. A very intelligent Chinaman in conversing with me one day, observed that it was strange what power foreigners fancied they possessed in Canton, "when," said he, "*the offer of a quarter dollar for each would bring all their heads in half an hour to the Viceroy's feet!*" God grant that such a massacre may never occur! but if the foreigners persist in the intemperance and violence which characterise the conduct of some of them, they will find that a strong nation will not for ever be so long suffering as it has hitherto been, but will use the power which it knows it possesses! Great Britain and the other European nations would undoubtedly take summary and ample vengeance for the massacre of their subjects, but I see not how that would compensate the dead, or mend the trade! The trade is now well: let well alone, should be the guiding rule of all. Let the residents in Canton behave themselves as they ought, as "*strangers and sojourners in the land,*" and not as dictators, and let not our national flag, and our national honor be involved in the quarrels of those who would make the customs and duties imposed by the Chinese the pretext for a war, by which the "*smuggling trade on the N. E. coast* would in their estimation be rendered more productive!"

The trade with foreigners, and indeed their intercourse generally, has for a very long period been conducted through the medium of a Company of Merchants styled the Co-hong, who are appointed by the Government and pay valuable considerations for their appointments. All sales

and purchases must be effected through their medium except retail and trifling ones. The Hong Merchants are responsible to Government for themselves, their co-partners, and generally for the good conduct of the foreigners too. Besides these there are a few linguists or interpreters, who effect sales, and transact business at the public and other offices. There are also compradores,\* a species of sircars or factors, who furnish supplies of every kind and manage generally house or ship business. These, the shopkeepers in the China streets, and the few servants allowed, are all the Chinese with whom Europeans can have legal intercourse. Through the classes enumerated, and the outside Merchants, is carried on the immense Tea-trade of the whole world, except the overland traffic with Russia.

Neither my knowledge, nor limits, will admit of a lengthened account of the Tea trade, I shall content myself therefore with mentioning some of the principal Teas, and the modes of preparing them.

The best Black Teas are grown in the province of Fuh-keen, and the inferior in Canton and other provinces. The leaves on being picked from the bush are put in a pan on the fire to dry ; then sifted finely, and all that passes a fine sieve is styled " Gunpowder." A second sized sieve yields " Imperial." The Tea is then winnowed, when a kind of dust flies off, and then the smallest and roundest leaves are picked out and sorted into two qualities called " Souchong" and " Pouchong." These are counted very good Teas by both native and foreign residents in China. The coarse Tea remaining after the above processes is " Bohea." The Teas of Canton and some other provinces are of this species, and are brought to market in tubs—not boxes. Souchongs and Pouchongs are usually packed in half

\* From the Portuguese term for " purchase."

catty leaden canisters, or paper packages, and these again in chests.

Green Teas are prepared in a somewhat similar way. The first picking of young soft leaves is the best, and styled "Hyson skin" and "young Hyson." The remainder is "Hyson." Besides these, the small buds of the plant are picked and these are called "Peko." The quantity of these buds mixed with other Teas constitutes the quality of the Tea. "Peko" is a very superior flavoured Tea. The refuse of the Green Teas is "Congo."

Coarse Green Tea is also manufactured in large quantities in Canton, by coloring the inferior Black Teas.

The principal article of export from China to Great Britain is Tea, but raw and manufactured silks, nankins and other articles are also exported. The imports are principally cotton and woollen goods.

Valuable as the Tea trade is, that between India and China is far more so. China is the drain which carries off the opium, cotton and some of the rice of Hindoostan. The returns are made in Tea, sugar, sugar candy, nankins, cassia, &c. but most of them in bullion. The main article however which amounts to an annual value of about twenty-eight lacks of rupees is Opium ! ! a contraband article smuggled into China, to the total ruin of the health and faculties of thousands of its inhabitants, and the trade is conducted by British merchants resident in Canton, many of whom subscribe to Bible Missionary Societies for the promotion of Christianity in China ! Can this be defended ? The days are past when Britons dealt in human flesh, but is it not better to seize and carry into captivity our fellow men, if after that they are well fed, clothed, generally speaking well treated and otherwise civilised, and possessed of every thing but freedom; than to place at their command a drug, otherwise

unattainable by them, which shall stupify and intoxicate them, and deprive them of the reason which distinguishes them from the beasts of the field—which shall destroy their mental powers and so alter their personal appearance, that the vacant gaze of idiocy shall succeed the bright glance of intelligence, and the downward look of the imbecile disgrace him who was made in God's own image? What a fine thing is consistency! The very men who thus administer to the disgraceful propensities of their fellow men, who scorn not to degrade their rational brethren below the very lowest scale of humanity, and that too for a little gain—that they themselves may return a few years sooner to their native countries—these men are many of them fathers of families, honorable men, and *Members of Temperance Societies ! !*

These very men, who have introduced poverty, shame, and infamy into the bosoms of half the families in China, will go to England, and contemplating the clear brows and sparkling eyes of their children, will thank God that “they are not as other men are”—and not a thought will ever in this world trouble them of the thousands who were ruined by the drug which enabled them to rear their families in affluence and luxury. The trade is one as disgraceful as any that ever blotted the fair page of British history, and can be productive of nothing but eventual evil. God grant that the nation may never be embroiled for the sake of supporting such a traffic. Shade of Wilberforce! behold thousands of our fellow creatures, subjected by Britons to a slavery far more disgraceful and debasing than that from which thy strenuous and incessant endeavours emancipated our African brethren. Behold those who call themselves thy countrymen proffering to the Chinese with one hand the drug which is to curse them from generation to

generation, and with the other daring to hold forth the Holy Scriptures ! And acting thus, they have still the audacity to complain that the Chinese oppress them, and to hope and expect that Great Britain will espouse their :quarrel, and pour forth her fleets to guard and protect ships engaged in this nefarious traffic. Let them look at the immense smuggling palaces called receiving ships, most if not all of them fully armed and manned, with abundance of boats, with decks bristling with small arms and having red-coated sentries at the hatches and gangways, and then let them say whether the Chinese have not cause to apprehend violence and injury from men who dare thus openly set at defiance the police of the nation, with whom they pretend to be on the most friendly terms. Ancient ally of their Sovereign ? Can they behold these ships and consider the purpose of their being in the Chinese harbours, and yet talk of Chinese aggressions and tyranny ? Thus was it that the wolf in the fable accused the lamb of dirtying the stream at which they both were quenching their thirst. But I must come to a conclusion or I shall far exceed the limits I intended to have restricted myself to. Therefore let us now take a brief survey of our present political relations with China.

During the existence of the India Company's Factory, the Committee on the part of the British, and the Hong or security merchants on the part of the Chinese Government, formed the connecting links between the two nations. It is useless, now that the mischief is complete, to point out the advantages of the Company's rule or the disadvantages of its abolition, otherwise much might with truth be said in favor of the princely body of merchants who so long ruled the affairs of the East. I shall therefore be content with adverting to the present state of things ; with

pointing out what seems to be erroneous in the system which has been adopted, and in suggesting a line of conduct for the future.

The Company's power in China being at an end, the Chinese, naturally anxious for some authority able and willing to keep in check the "*turbulent spirits of the barbarians,*" requested the appointment by the English of some authority to superintend the trade. Upon this his Majesty's Ministers appointed a Commission composed of Lord Napier and the two Senior Servants of the Company in China, and gave them powers to try and determine causes, civil and criminal, and also admiralty jurisdiction, but without in any way constituting them representatives of His Majesty or Envoys to the Chinese Court. The sad business which ended in Lord Napier's untimely death is still of so recent a date, that it is unnecessary to enter minutely into it. The Chinese did not understand His Lordship, nor he them ; they did not recognise him as an Envoy or Ambassador from the King of England, but as Superintendent of Trade only ; in which capacity he ought to have addressed the Viceroy through the Security Merchants, the regular and usual channel of communication. Lord Napier, on the contrary, deemed it derogatory towards a British Peer to correspond with the Viceroy, except directly, and hence the first difference. If I do not much mistake, the instructions to Lord Napier contained a clause that "*the communication was to be carried on in the usual manner.*" Let Sir George Staunton, Mr. Davis, or any other of the old China servants of the Company say what they understand by "*the usual manner of communication?*" through the Hong Merchants or not ? I have no wish to cast any blame, merited or unmerited, on Lord Napier, than whom I believe a worthier or better meaning man never held office. But I must say that one in almost

every way more unfitted for the situation he held would be very difficult to find. In the first place, as a Superintendent of Trade only, a Nobleman should not have been chosen. 2dly. The Chinese wanted a Merchant, not a *man of war*, whose rank and profession equally tended to render them afraid and jealous of his residence amongst them. 3dly. To settle terms of trade with the craftiest and most polite nation, in perhaps the world,—one among whom Machiavall himself would be eclipsed, and who ever gain their point, like Fabius, by delay,—a politician of high integrity, but equally high talent, should have been sent as Envoy; one who could oppose delay to delay, vexation to vexation, who could foil his opponents at their own weapons, and never for an instant lose sight of his grand object even while his attention seemed entirely occupied by, and his mind devoted to the color of the button in the cap of the Mandarin who was to introduce him, or the number of *kotows* it was absolutely necessary to perform. Or, if it was not the intention of His Majesty's Ministers to employ an experienced and duly accredited Envoy to the Court,—the obvious course was to sink into the same line as the foreigners of other nations in China, and appointing a Mercantile Consul, permit things to take their course as the Americans, Dutch and French do.

Then no doubt could have arisen regarding the “channel of communication,” the rock on which the late unjust and Quixotic appointment of Superintendents split. The Consul would of course have conducted himself similarly with those of other nations, who transact their business with the local Government through the agency of the Hong Merchants, and which course the Chinese had a perfect right to expect Lord Napier to adopt. They knew nothing of “*Loupeer*,” as they called him. He was no Envoy or Ambassador, or he would have been duly accred-

dited to the Court at Pekin. Not being an Ambassador, the Viceroy of Canton had nothing to do with His Lordship, but in as much as he would have had if he had been the lowest individual in Canton holding the appointment of Superintendent of British Trade.

A few more lines will suffice to bring to an end the history of the most unfortunate, ridiculous and premature attempt that ever was made by a British Minister ! After getting to Canton Lord Napier grew sick, and found he could not leave it. The Frigates *Imogene* and *Andromache* were called in to the river. They entered as hostile ships, were fired upon by the batteries at the Bogue or Bocca Tigris,\* returned the fire without much damage on either side, and anchored in the river—*Cui bono?* Lord Napier, on being permitted to depart, returned to the Portuguese settlement at Macao, and there died. Since that time His Majesty's Superintendents have had sinecure appointments as far as the Chinese are concerned ; almost sinecures as far as ships' papers are concerned, and quite sinecures as far as their legitimate duty is concerned, for their powers are of avail *only within the Port of Canton, viz. from the Bocca Tigris to the town of Canton*—and none of them have been resident therein since Lord Napier's expulsion ; though report said, that one of the Superintendents (or “*Super-abundants*,” as they are called in China, from their high pay and want of employment !) did once go in a boat inside the Bogue to be enabled conscientiously to sign his salary bill !!

Since Lord Napier's death, then, the Superintendents have been unacknowledged, and unemployed, and their

\* By the bye, some of my Naval readers may perhaps be able to tell me, whether it is usual in forcing a passage similar to this for British ships of war to be content with passing the opposing forts ? or whether it is not more customary to continue the fire until that of the opposing battery is silenced ?

functions in abeyance. Nevertheless, it was found absolutely necessary that His Majesty should have a certain number of idle gentlemen in China ready to act if the Chinese would let them, and to draw their salaries if His Majesty's Ministers would permit ! The vacancies occasioned by His Lordship's decease were accordingly filled up, and it is really a pity that so much *political talent, experience and assiduity* should be " wasting its sweetness in the desert air" at the cost to His Majesty's Government and the East India Company, who pay half of it, of from £25,000 to £30,000 per annum ! Witness the list as it now stands :

Sir George Robinson, 1st Superintendent—(late of the Company's Factory.)

Captain Elliott, R. N., 2d Superintendent, came out as Master Attendant (!) with Lord Napier, consequently must be well acquainted by this time with China, i. e. Macao !

Mr. Johnson, 3d Superintendent, a very young man, came out as Secretary, attaché, or in some such situation.

Mr. Elmslie, Secretary, late Lord Napier's Private Secretary.

Mr. Morrison, Interpreter, a hereditary office derived from his father.

Mr. Gutzlaff,\* Assistant (!) Interpreter.

Rev. Mr. Nachell, Chaplain.

Cutter Louisa, having Sir George Robinson's broad pendant !

The Superintendents having so much to do, one interpreter was not found sufficient, and an assistant was accordingly obliged to be appointed ! and all this during the existence of the National Debt ! Is not the whole a prime farce, gentle reader ? Paul MacGregor or R. H. Tulloch

\* What are you doing Tom ? Nothing, Sir ! And you Will ? Helping Tom, Sir !

would manage things better were our friends Company's and not His Majesty's servants. But I am tired of laughing and must hasten to a conclusion. During my stay in Canton, I confess I heard no great cry for the Superintendents, neither did I see or hear of any occurrence but one in which their services could have been productive of any good. That their unsought interference, in at least one instance, did not argue much in favor of their wisdom or penetration I think they will themselves allow; if not Mr. K——g will, I have no doubt, be able to point it out to them, and with this I make my bow to His Majesty's Superintendents, wishing them every success in life, and hoping Ministers may be blind enough to allow them to continue as they are until the nation begins to open its eyes, when it will probably be disposed to vote a Whig Ministry and a King's Commission in China, alike unnecessary and unprofitable.

If His Majesty's Government is prepared to commence a long and expensive war with China, now is the time. Lord Napier's mistakes afford a plausible pretext. If they are not so disposed let the Commission cease at once, and if necessary, a Consul be appointed and the trade go on as it now does. Let us not involve ourselves unnecessarily. The temper and disposition of a large portion of the foreign residents in Canton are such that things cannot long maintain their present posture. Daily aggressions will eventually rouse the Chinese to retaliation, and then the foreigners will learn with whom they have been playing; then will they find to their cost that the talons of the tiger, though hidden, are at all times ready for use, and may be more sharp from being usually concealed. It will be necessary for His Majesty's Ministers previous to the arrival of that day to make up their minds what course to adopt. Indecision then would prove our ruin. Invasion and

empire in China is to us an impossibility. The Indian Army is fully competent to make such an example of the Chinese as may be necessary, and placing the authorities in Bengal in communication with the Chinese would probably be preferable to appointing a Consul from England, as from their proximity and from association the Chinese regard the Company's Governor General as a far more formidable foe than even His Majesty of England. In the event of war being absolutely necessary, China must be made to pay, by the attack, bombardment and pillage of some of her principal towns. The nature of the country and of the people, the denseness of the population and scarcity of food renders British dominion in China impossible, or at least possible only with such a continued sacrifice of life and wealth as amounts to the same thing. Having then made her pay the penalty of her insults to the British flag, (or whatever may be the assumed cause of the war) a firm and steady line of conduct would force from China one of her numerous islands as the pledge of her faith, pending a cessation of hostilities and overtures for peace. The possession of the same might be made the guarantee for the due observance of the terms of the ultimate treaty of peace, and England thus obtain,—a port near enough to China to enable her at any instant to invade it,—and an emporium for Teas, &c. which would entirely obviate the necessity of ships, as now, navigating the China seas against the strength of the monsoon. Moreover the Chinese navigators themselves who, however unskilful they may be as seamen, are assuredly not wanting in courage, would then have a port in their immediate vicinity to which they could and undoubtedly would bring their Teas, &c. and the prices would here be lower than in the ports of China from the non-intervention of the Hong Merchants and the absence of

the squeezing faculties of the Mandarins. The Island of Formoso holds out many advantages to an establishment there, and is a good distance from the Coast of China, but perhaps the Island of Quelpert might be preferable as affording equal facilities of trade with China, Japan, Corea, and Leu Chew, or that of Chusan, from its proximity to the capital. But these points I leave for consideration by those to whom they more immediately appertain : my task is done, my thread is out. Whether I join another to it, or not, depends partly on my time and inclination, and partly on the reception these pages meet with from my fellow Indians.

If, as I said in the commencement, my efforts amuse, I am content ; if they rouse the spirit of enquiry, if they excite any one talented youth to lend his attention to our present relations with China, relations which cannot long continue on their present footing, I shall have succeeded beyond my hopes. The subject is one which must ultimately repay the pains of any young man who devotes himself to it, for my comrades may rely upon it, whatever is to befal China hereafter, India and India's forces will be the means employed. Proximity by sea, contiguity of frontier, and long connection, all conspire to make India the dictating power. Measures may be planned in Downing Street, but they will be promulgated from Chowringhee. Troops may be appointed from the Horse Guards, but they will be found in the barracks and huts of Madras and Bengal. Perseverance and courage will be wanted and blood must be spilled. Where will these be looked for but in the ranks of those armies which fought and conquered at Assaye, Laswarie, Deig, Delhi, and Bhurtpore !

## APPENDIX—No. 1.

## GLOSSARY OF THE CANTON DIALECTS.

- Can do ? .....“ Will it do ?” and erroneously “ How d'ye do ?”
- Catchee, .....“ To get, bring, find”—2ndly “ To become.”
- Chin chin, .....( *Tsing* to request and *tsingah* a salutation)  
“ To ask, thank, salute, &c.”
- Chin chin joss, ...“ To worship.”
- Chop, .....“ A seal, any thing sealed or printed”—2ndly  
“ quality” as “ first chop.”
- Chop boat,.....“ A licensed boat able to carry one chop or  
batch of Tea.”
- Chop house, .....“ A custom house.”
- Chop chop, .....“ Quick, fast”—“ *Too muchee chop chop*,”  
“ very fast.”
- Chop sticks, .....“ Eating sticks,” called in Chinese “ nimble  
lads.”
- Chow chow, .....“ Mixed, miscellaneous”—hence “ food.”
- Chunam, .....“ To paste, glue or whitewash.”
- Conshuns, .....“ Reasonable, just” as “ *conshuns price*”  
(qu. conscience.)
- Consoo, .....( *Kung-so*) “ Public meeting place.”
- Counta, .....“ To account, an a, c.”
- Cow cow, .....“ To be noisy, angry, scold”—“ an uproar.”
- Cumsha, .....(Fuhkeen *kum-seäh*, “ I will thank you”) “ a  
gift,” “ a customary charge.”
- Dollar boat, .....“ Passage boat from Canton to Whampoa.”
- Face, .....“ Reputation, credit”—hence “ *to lose face*.”
- Fan kwei, .....“ Foreign Devil ;” contemptuously used to  
foreigners.
- Fashion, .....“ Manner, habit, practice.”
- Fast boat, .....“ A Chinese” (river) “ post chaise.”
- Hong, .....“ Factory, place of commercial business.”

- Joss, .....(Dios Portuguese) "God." *Joss House*,  
 "Temple"—*Joss Pidgeon*, "Religious services." *He hab joss pigeon*, "It was his fate to die."
- Lingoo, ....."Linguist interpreter."
- Mahcheen, ....."Merchant,"—*Outsi mahcheen*, "shopkeeper."
- Mandarin, .....(Mandar, Portuguese) "any commission-ed officer;" adj. "laudatory."
- Maskee, ....."Never mind—leave it alone."
- Makee, .....A prefix—*Makee see*, "look."
- Olo custom, ....."Usage," the plea for every fault.
- Pay, ....."To give, deliver."
- Piece, .....Numerical particle, "*one piece cow child*," one girl.
- Pidgeon, .....{ Corruption of business, also any "matter" or  
 Pidginess, ..... "thing," *no makee good pigeon*, "not well done."
- Plum cash, ....."Prime cost."
- Posa, ....."Purser—a commercial assistant."
- Quisi, ....."Bad, inferior, low, vulgar, indecent."
- Sabbee, .....(Saber, Portuguese :) "To know," "*My no Sabbee he*."
- Savec, ....."Cleverness."
- Si. or side, ....."Place, situation," as "*Outsi*," "*Topsi*," "*Bucksi*."
- Smug pigeon, ..."Smuggling."
- Take care for, ..."Patronize," "*Chin chin, you takee care for my*," "Be my customer."
- Tankea boats, ... (Egg-houses) "Boats for landing travellers."
- Too muchee, ....."Very, extremely."
- Wantchee, ....."To want."
- Welly few, ....."Very few, little."

These are a few of the most common of the corruptions in use among the Chinese of Canton and Macao.

A  
Subaltern's Sick Leave,  
OR  
ROUGH NOTES  
OF A  
VISIT IN SEARCH OF HEALTH  
TO  
CHINA  
AND  
THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

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السفر وسيلة الظفر  
ASSAFAR WASILUT-Z-ZUFAR.

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BY LIEUT. NICOLAS POLSON,  
*Of the Bengal Native Infantry.*

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1837.



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## **PART SECOND.**

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THE

**Cape of Good Hope.**

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CHAPTER I.

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The first view that a stranger obtains on the land of South Africa after entering the bay is the long row of scattered houses extending from the Lion's Rump to Green Point; and to eyes tired of the monotonous view of sea and sky which for two months has daily and hourly presented itself, this green expanse, with its neat white houses, is certainly very refreshing. A few minutes more and he is round the point and Cape Town lies before him. The first sight of this capital, with its very shabby and disgraceful wooden jetty, is far from pleasing; but the landing effected, the Grand Parade and Commercial Exchange tend in some measure to reconcile the traveller to entering the town. Neither is there any thing in the town particularly calculated to offend the eye, if I except the ditches, and these do not confine their offence to the visual organs,—the olfactory ones likewise come in for their share! But it is not my intention to describe Cape Town. This has already been done by hundreds of travellers with whom it is neither my province to compete nor my design to clash. My business inclines more to men and manners than to bricks and mortar. But, as it is necessary to find my reader a domicile, I will here mention that there is one pretty good hotel "George's," in the Heerengracht, or principal street, and one of a secondary class, "Morrison's," in the Keisersgracht, and several of inferior note. These two first are resorted to by most visitors who intend only making one or two days stay in the town. But those who meditate a longer residence usually repair to one of the numerous

boarding houses. In these houses, many whereof are very comfortable, strangers are provided with well furnished bed-rooms, and join the family party both in the drawing and dining rooms. There is a regular table d'hote in them, where the viands are excellent, and the wines not bad, though of colonial growth. The charges at these houses for board and lodging vary from 80 rix dollars to 150 per mensem. At the hotels they are higher. It is invidious to particularise where all are good, but if I may venture to do so, I should say Miss Rabe's and my old friend Mrs. Vamchoor's are among the best, at each of which a stranger is sure generally to find a large party of Indians of every denomination—Qui hy, Mull and Duck—all of whom are distinguished by the "Kapenaars" or townspeople by the generic name of "*Hindoos*." The mode of life in these boarding houses is agreeable enough to most Indians; though those who seek quiet and retirement will naturally prefer private lodgings. But every one who has been long resident in a tropical climate, and got imbued with oriental indolence, and that feeling of ennui which forms the chief remaining feature of disease in most "*Hindoos*" on their arrival here, will find a short residence amid the bustle and incessant movement of a boarding house, highly beneficial. Indians here troop together, but the presence and example of one active man among them, will keep a whole houseful on the move, and tend far more to restore their health than all the medicines in the *Materia Medica*. Private lodgings are procurable, good but high priced, and house keeping is expensive.

During the winter months it is usual for all the Cape world, natives as well as foreigners, to reside in town; and this period, which extends from May to September, is the gay season. In the summer, every one who can, flies to

the country, to avoid the almost intolerable heat of the town, and the dreadful annoyance from the south-easters, which blow down the face of Table Mountain with terrific violence, carrying dust, sand, and even small pebbles with them. The pretty villages of Rondebosch and Wynberg, the former 3, and the latter 7 miles distant, are the places of refuge of men of business, and the less active of the East Indians. Those more fond of locomotion, boldly traverse the weary waste of sand which delights in the name of Cape Flats, and seek an asylum in the villages of Stettensbosch and the Paarl, 25 and 30 miles from town. A few more adventurous reach Caledon, Swellendam, Worcester and other towns, between 70 and 150 miles off, while a very few hardy spirits face the difficulties of a hitherto to them unknown mode of conveyance, and putting themselves and their baggage into a waggon visit the more remote parts of the colony and the interior of Africa. As I was among the latter class, and do not consider myself competent to do justice to the beauties of Cape Town, in any other mode than like Edwin in the poem, bowing my simple homage to their charms, I shall be very brief in my remarks thereon, and get my readers as soon as possible with me into my ox-waggon, to make a trip to the frontier districts of the colony.

The climate of Cape Town may on the whole be pronounced salubrious, and is certainly highly beneficial to worn-out Indian constitutions; but those who suffer from rheumatic pains in the very grievous way that many Indians do, should not visit the Cape. There is a moisture in the atmosphere at most periods, which to the sick with this complaint is decidedly injurious, especially during the winter season. I have but little doubt that the climate, or rather the atmosphere, would be much improved by the closing up of those pestiferous nurseries of mus-

quitoes and bad odours—the ditches—to which I have before alluded. In the hot season they would render the town perfectly uninhabitable, were it not that the S. E. winds act as purifiers, and remove the tainted air almost as fast as it is generated. In the winter the climate is good, but generally the atmosphere is very damp, and the wind cold and piercing. The neighbouring villages are not subject to these south-easters to the same extent or with equal violence as Cape Town is; neither does the same necessity for their blowing exist. The air is far more pure and salubrious on the side of Table Mountain on which they are situated, than on the Cape Town side.

Most of the "Kapenaars," as the Dutch and other natives of Cape Town delight to call themselves, in contradistinction to the other native white inhabitants of the colony whom they style "Afrikaanders," have some sort of business or another to attend to which occupies them during the day. The Indians on the contrary, being here idle men, naturally wander about in search of wherewithal to kill the enemy. The modes of effecting this are not very numerous but still there are ways of getting rid of the weary moments, adapted to men of every pursuit and inclination.

The studious man will find on the shelves of the Dessinean and public libraries, a collection of books, sufficient both in quantity and quality to make the heart of the most fastidious leap with joy. The man of pleasure, who has recourse to reading solely to occupy an hour which he finds himself unable to employ in any more frivolous pursuit, will also find the shelves of the library rich in novels and works of light reading. The politician may here, or in the adjoining Commercial Exchange, indulge his appetite for news and debates to the full, from papers which are constantly arriving from every known part of the universe;

he who makes science or literature his study need never turn away disappointed from these classic halls, and the votary of the Chaste Goddess will find ample amusement in the pages of *Nimrod* and the Sporting Magazines. Here is food for the mind for every class. But should the appetites of any descend to more sensual pleasures, or should the Hindoo yearn for a little quiet "*gup*," see directly opposite the Commercial Hall stands invitingly open and generally thronged by Indians and native idlers, the shop of Mrs. Saunders the confectioner. Here too are to be met divers of the butterfly class who lounge about the Heerengracht, the parado, the livery stables and the auction marts, till the accustomed hour comes round for their giving the last finishing touch to the curls which have already cost them infinite labour, previous to commencing the real work of *their* lives—paying morning visits, repeating worn-out jokes, spreading unfounded reports, and "whispering soft nothings in the ladies' ears."

Here may also be met (friends of my soul! far be it from me to do you the injustice of ranking you among such a class!) those who, without despising the high and vain pleasures of the world, are content to take them as they were intended by a munificent Providence, namely as relaxations after the fatigues of more solid and far worthier pursuits; men whose conversation emanates from minds stored alike with reading and originality, and is not a tissue of scandal and frivolity, the inventions or the recollections of the last night's ball or debauch. Such men are also to be met with here indulging in remarks that soon put to flight the light and dissolute throng, just as any of the solid viands of Mrs. Saunders' store would cause her light confections and cakes to kick the beam.

Reader! are you a billiard player? If so, the tables of the Society House and the regiments forming the Garrison

are always open to the gentlemanly stranger—the former for payment—the latter through the kindness and generosity for which British Officers are ever remarkable.

The man devoted to field sports will find a pretty good pack of hounds to hunt with, and no lack of good steeds in the livery stables of the town, until he can mount himself to his own satisfaction. Good shooting may also be had at a short distance from town, where birds of the partridge and Korhaan (*small bustard*) species, and the colonial pheasant are plentiful, and also several varieties of small antelope.

Twice a year there are good races, viz. in April or May and September. Here may be met all the wealth, beauty and fashion of Cape Town.

Beauty and fashion ! what a mass of meaning do these two words convey ! and can there be any more appropriate words to scare my current pen from man and his daily pursuits to women and their nightly ones ! Ladies of Cape Town ! young, old, and between the two ! think not from my having omitted so long to mention you that I had forgotten you. Think you that the half anxious, half doubting visitor to the Pythian fane could *forget* the God whose oracle he came from his far distant home to consult ? Do you believe that it was *forgetfulness* made him shrink from the task which his anxiety had forced upon him, and kept him back till the attending priests dragged the trembling sinner into the presence of his Deity,—and that Deity's mouthpiece a woman ? No ! ladies ! anxiety and fear at his own temerity conspired to keep him back. And so is it with me ! On you, ladies, depends the success of these my pages. Your smiles and your applause can insure its success, as your frowns are sure to ruin it. Fear not, ladies of Cape Town, that my pen shall record aught that shall raise a blush on the cheek of modesty, or attempt like

some recent travellers to ridicule those among whom I reckon many kind acquaintances, and I hope I may add some friends. “*Hindoo*” though I am, and in that title delight, believe me I shall never descend to libelling the beauties of the Cape, or drawing insidious comparisons between the daughters of Afric and other more Northern lands. Long may you flourish, retaining every charm which nature or art has endowed you with, kindly as your climate, beautiful as the scenery of your country, and sweet as the wines of your vineyards ! Long may you enjoy the love of a few, and the admiration of all ! and may no *Hindoo* ever breathe in your presence or absence words less pleasing than those usually uttered before the commissary and the priest.

Mention of the races having induced mention of the fair sex, let us now turn our attention to the facilities for passing the time after dark. But previous to our considering this subject let me warn my Indian readers against three mistakes all equally common. First, that the society of Cape Town is not fit for them ; and secondly, that the Kapenaars have no wish that the Hindoos should associate with them. The third is that every Cape *spinster* (to use the elegant Indian term) is looking out for a Hindoo husband ! As to the first and second, I need only appeal to the experience of the visitors from each Presidency, resident in Cape Town for many years past, who have lived in the society of its inhabitants, for the denial thereof in the assurance that they have seldom experienced greater or more voluntary kindness. I allude not to all. Those who think it not worth their while to render themselves agreeable in some shape or other, are without doubt deservedly left to their own resources. With regard to the third, although many an Indian has, and I hope many more may, find wives among the nymphs of Table Moun-

tain, let the long list of "*juwabed Hindoos*" bear witness that they are far from jumping at every offer like "a cock at a grossart," though some of them thereby (proving alike their sense and their disinterestedness) after refusing the most brilliant offers, may

"Condescend to catch at a Cadet."

And show me the man that dares to blame such an act ! Do you think, the worse of a young, pretty and sensible woman because she prefers wedding a man who is her equal in age and intellect to linking herself for life to Wealth in the shape of yon idiotic old man, Avarice in the shape of yon trembling sinner or Folly in any shape ? I should hope not, reader mine, for the regard I entertain for your intellects.

Dinner parties are frequent in Cape Town, at which the Indian visitor will meet with men whose conversation will alike edify and amuse him ; and ladies the charms of whose society are outshone only by those of their persons. Beauty there assuredly is in the faces of the Cape ladies as well as in many of those whose husbands' occupations render them temporary sojourners in Africa. If there is any peculiarity in the figures of the former it is a natural tendency to embonpoint, certainly far from unbecoming in a young and lovely woman ; though in maturer age it perhaps increases with a too luxuriant growth. But he must be fastidious indeed who would quarrel on this account with ladies whose desire and aptitude to please ensures them success.

But to see them in perfection, reader, you must visit the ball room, and few colonies will exhibit an assemblage of more graceful figures or more pleasing features than are to be met with on a ball night in the houses of the Governor or residents in Cape Town or at the Commercial Hall. I do not mean to particularize, or I could soon run up a long

list of fair forms at this moment floating before my mind's eye in airy gracefulness through the mazes of the dance, in spite of the discordant music of the sailors "yo ! heave oh !" just now ringing in my ears—(for gentle reader I am on board o'ship !) But the theme is too sacred a one, so let us adjourn to the theatre.

Of these there are three in Cape Town, one in the town where an amateur company occasionally performs with much zeal and some success, a second in the regimental barracks where the Officers occasionally exhibit their histrionic powers, and a third where a Dutch amateur company frequently delight their audiences with the Dramas of their fatherland.

Besides these places of amusement, there is a Club-house, where card playing is carried on to a considerable extent, and as I before mentioned, a pretty good billiard table, so that on the whole Cape Town is far from destitute of resources to improve, occupy or fritter away your time.

But with all these attractions Cape Town is not the place where I should recommend an Indian, or indeed any other visitor, to remain more than one winter. In that time he will have seen quite enough of it and there are many people, places, and things in His Majesty's Colony of Good Hope equally well, if not better worth seeing than Cape Town and its denizens. Do not be affronted, worthy Kapenaar ! be you of the male or female gender ! I am far from undervaluing you and your metropolis, though I consider other spots equally deserving the attention of a traveller and other climates more conducive to the recovery of that the loss of which sends all us Indians to your shores. I shall therefore without further preface or apology transfer my readers from Mrs. Van Schoor's to an ox-waggon, and forthwith commence our journey towards the North Eastern Frontier.

## CHAPTER II.

This style of travelling, gentle Hindoos ! being perfectly novel to most of you, permit me to give a slight sketch of your conveyance and mode of journeying. First, the waggon is a long, four-wheeled, heavy vehicle, varying from eleven to fourteen feet in length, and from three to four broad. This is fitted inside with chests containing the clothes and stores of the party, all of which, except live stock, it is necessary or at least adviseable to take with you from Cape Town. On the top of these chests lie one or two bed frames for the occupants to sleep on, and round the tilt of the waggon are slung bags for every purpose, and the guns of the party. Underneath and behind are fastened your cooking pots and pans, and two water kegs slung on each side of the perch of the carriage immediately before the hinder axle. Some travellers also carry a small bell tent in the waggon. The vehicle is drawn by oxen from ten to sixteen according to its size and weight, and these are driven by a Dutchman or Hottentot, who sits on the front box of the waggon, and urges and guides his team with a long bamboo handled whip, to which two of Crowther's four-in-hand whips rolled into one would be but as a sprig of jasmine to an oak of the forest. The driver is assisted by a boy or man, who leads the front oxen over all dangerous or difficult parts of the road, and herds them when grazing. These waggons travel at any rate short of 28 or 30 miles a day, which is performed at about 3 or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles an hour, and the cattle get a rest, and time to feed, in the middle of each day's journey. At night you stop and

*nitspan* or unyoke the cattle, and the servants light their fires and proceed to cook your dinner. There are public *nitspan* places set apart by the Government for that purpose, but it is usual for travellers to halt in the vicinity of any farm for the convenience of procuring milk and any other supplies they may stand in need of, having first obtained permission from the *boer* or farmer, not to ask which may entail on them unpleasant consequences, as no farmer likes his ground being taken possession of, and his grass, which is valuable here, eaten by cattle without any leave solicited or obtained.

This then being your mode of travelling, gentle reader, I will suppose you fairly under weigh for a trip to the frontier, and as Graham's Town is the most usual destination I shall suppose you bound for that town.

The weary waste of the Cape Flats will occupy you two or three days, unless you hurry and fatigue your cattle, which is not advisable at the commencement of a long journey. Having crossed these plains of sand, you can visit the village of Stellenbosch and proceed via the Franschehoek Pass, or go by the pretty little village of Somerset, situated on the shore of False Bay and ascend the hills by the Hottentot's Holland or Sir Lowry Cole's Pass. In travelling northward and eastward from Cape Town the land gradually ascends after crossing the sandy flats which divide Table and False Bays, partly by gentle slopes and also by regular steps formed by chains of mountains, some of which traverse the colony from sea to sea, and all for a very considerable portion of the distance. These must be successively surpassed by roads or passes, most of them formed by the boers' waggons only and others by convict labor; but on few of these passes has much skill or money been expended, and many of them, as I shall have occasion hereafter to mention, are still in a fearful state. I may

except however Franschechock and Hottentot's Holland, at both of which are good roads by which to ascend the first of these natural steps; one whereof was executed under the auspices of Lord Charles Somerset and the other by Sir Lowry Cole. Ascending by either of these passes, both worthy a traveller's attention, the village of Caledon, distant 70 miles from Cape Town, and Gnadeudal alike demand notice.

Caledon is a small village, celebrated I believe for nothing but its hot springs, the bleakness of its situation on bare undulating downs without a tree to intercept the view, and for the piercing nature of its winds. The baths however afford during the summer season an attractive place to visitors of every description, and a grateful resort to invalids who flock here in considerable numbers and render Caledon the Brunnen or Beulah of the colony. The water of the springs has, I am told, been analyzed, but I was unable correctly to ascertain the components—sulphur however is evidently the predominant ingredient. These baths are strongly recommended by the faculty, especially in rheumatic affections, which are very common among the boers.

Gnadeudal is a Moravian Missionary institution, well worthy of a visit if it were only for the purpose of seeing the Hottentots, the aborigines of South Africa, in their very best colours and in a very different state from that in which they are to be found at the London Missionary Establishments, which you will hereafter arrive at. This and other places have been so often described by travellers, that it is not my intention to do more than make a casual mention of them and their situation as they occur on or near to our route. Gnadeudal is not on the direct main road, nor indeed is Caledon, from which place it is distant about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours on horseback. This is the usual method of counting distances in this colony where miles or leagues

are unknown. Where hours only are mentioned it implies hours on horseback at the usual travelling pace of the farmers. This of course varies much, but as a general average rate, six miles may be considered equivalent to an hour on horseback and three to an hour with an ox-waggon.

The next place that occurs on the road, (except the farms which are thickly strewed along it) is Swellendam, the capital of the district of the same name. It is situated about 28 hours from Cape Town, is a little off the direct road, and contains nothing particularly worthy of being visited. Nevertheless I would recommend travellers instead of proceeding by that direct road to the village of George, which is as far from Swellendam as the latter is from Cape Town, and the road to which is far from interesting, to turn off from Swellendam to Zuurbraak, a station of the London Missionary Society, beautiful for its situation, in a deep and well watered glen, reminding the Briton of hundreds of spots in his own fair land where his infant footsteps have trod. This secluded spot which burst unexpectedly on my sight carried me back in a moment from the desert plains of Africa to the seats of my youth, and as I heard the Sabbath bell pealing forth among the fruit trees that line the sides of the little rivulet, and echoing back from the bases of the Zwarteborgen or Black Mountains, I could almost have fancied myself a child again.

From Zuurbraak the traveller should ascend the Kleine Zwarteborgen, or Small Black Mountains, by the Plattekloof, up which a pretty tolerable road winds, which ushers him to the top of the second of the natural steps to which I before alluded.

After crossing the Platte Kloof, the eye of the traveller rests upon a long and dreary expanse of dry and arid soil, extending to the Groote Zwarteborgen, visible in the distance, thickly covered with a bush called Karroobosch.

Besides this and a few willow trees there is no other vegetation on the whole of this immense "flat," as it is styled in Africa, being the nearest approach to flats that are known here. But the reader must not from this infer that the surface is a level. Far from that; it consists of undulating ground and is thickly sprinkled with small rocky hills. From the Platte Kloof, northward to the Groote Zwartebergen or Great Black Mountains, distant about three days' journey with an ox-waggon, extends this same species of plain, throughout which water is very scarce. There are two or three rivers so called, winding through it, but at most seasons they are almost if not entirely dry, and it is therefore necessary to time the journey well and to make no delay in crossing this Karroo Veld. When rain does fall the rivers in question fill in the space of an hour or two, and become immense torrents, raging with terrific violence, and carrying along with them numbers of the stunted willow trees which grow on their banks and even in the course of the streams. At the foot of the Platte Kloof, on the north side, is a farm where water is usually plentiful; and 5 or 6 hours hard labor will take a waggon from thence, to the banks of the Braak River, where water may also be usually procured, though sometimes in very small quantities. From the Braak River a good day's work with tried and thirsty oxen will bring the traveller to a small spring or "*fontein*," at the western end of a conical hill called the *Roode Berg*. This spring always has water. The bed of it is about ten feet square and the depth perhaps as many inches. The water does not overflow, and, from being constantly used by travellers and defiled by the cattle and horses which smell water at a great distance and eagerly rush into it the moment they are nitspanned, is usually very thick and muddy. But a traveller in the interior of Africa soon learns not to be nice with regard to

this element. Three or four hours more will bring a waggon to another still smaller spring on the road side and three more to the Touw River, when all difficulties respecting water are at an end, the Karroo Veld being passed.

Beyond the Great Zwartebogen extends the Great Karroo or plain, of even a more arid and barren description than that which the traveller has just crossed, and like it destitute of every thing like animal and vegetable life except rats, lizards, snakes and the everlasting Karroo Bosch. This must be avoided, as the journeyer will already have had quite sufficient experience of Karroo Veld and the pleasures cf traversing it without water to drink or any thing to occupy his attention, and a sun over his head very nearly as hot as that of India.

Following the course of the Touw River and leaving the Zwartebogen on his left hand, he turns off to the right and enters in my estimation the most wonderful place in the colony, namely the Caledon Kloof.

Fancy to yourself, reader, an irregular winding fissure rent through an immense range of hills evidently by an earthquake or some similar convulsion of nature,—just wide enough to admit the small and clear stream of the Touw River to wander through it with a motion scarcely perceptible, from the very trifling slope of its rocky bed. In the bed of the river and sometimes on its margin your waggon is driven, while on each side of you the rocks rise always to a vast height and in many places not short of 250 feet. In a few parts this Kloof opens out a little, but always again contracts to its usual narrow limits. The waggon slowly descends the Kloof accompanied by a noise like the loudest thunder, and waking a thousand echoes from the surrounding rocks. No idea of direction can be formed, for your road runs now east, now west, now north and then south, and so you wind your slow and arduous way for

about seven miles, at one moment watching the antics and gambols of the “dasseys” or rock rabbits, which abound here—at another contemplating the graceful evolutions performed by the rock pigeons, thousands of which are careering in airy circles at a dizzy height above your head, or at the next pausing, lost in abstraction, at the tremendous power which must have been employed to rend so huge a fissure in the almost always perpendicular sides or walls, of which the former intimate connection may be clearly traced, every stratum on each side corresponding—the same bends and arches appearing on both and in many places the convexity on the one hand exactly matched by the concavity on the other. I halted a night in the middle of the Kloof and the scene was certainly as wild and romantic a one as a painter could have desired. On the one side close under the rocks stood our waggon and the oxen tied to it. Behind it sat my companion and myself at our small fire eating our evening meal—our horses were tied near us, and in the front some yards distant an immense dry willow tree which the servants had fired formed the kitchen, round which flitted the dusky forms of Afrikaanders and Hottentots, busy preparing their own meal, and visited every now and then by the family of a goatherd whose hut is perched up here, and who feeds on the surrounding hills the flocks whence he derives his support. The immense fire threw a light on the part of the Kloof we sat in nearly as bright as day, while on either side of us it gradually died away and sunk into deeper and deeper shadows among the rugged rocks of the pass, till distance or a turn in the direction shut it out entirely and night there resumed the broken chain of darkness.

Emerging from the Caledon Kloof you reach the Lion’s River or Gamka, and crossing it you are on the plain of the Gamka. This is certainly more deserving of the name

of flat than any other I have ever seen in the colony, being open and but slightly undulating. This spot affords a delightful resting place to the sportsman. The oxen require rest after their fatiguing journey, and game is excessively plentiful here. Small bucks or antelopes may be shot by dozens, and in riding over the plain, nine and ten may frequently be seen on foot at once—but as the grass is far from long, and cover thin, they are necessarily a little wild. Besides these the magnificent ostrich is very common here. To shoot them however requires the sportsman to be well mounted, and to have considerable skill in venery. But I shall treat of this hereafter in the chapter on African field sports.

The next place which demands a visit from the tourist is the Cango Cavern. This is an immense line of caves and grottoes extending a considerable distance into the bowels of a hill in the Great Zwartebogen range. The cavern like many in other countries is formed of and filled with stalactites and stalagmites, formed by the dripping and filtering of water over beds of limestone, which again crystalizing forms these beautiful spar. It is situated but a few day's journey from the Gamka, up the Olifant's River and Grobelaar's River. The traveller should leave his waggon at the Olifant's River at Rademeyer's, a farmer; and proceed from thence on horseback, as the roads are very bad and the rocky bed of the Grobelaar's River has to be crossed 35 times in the ride of about 28 miles. The boers residing in the neighbourhood of the cavern are in the habit of accompanying travellers to it. It is absolutely necessary to have these as guides and to supply candles, and bear with them the 40-foot ladder with which ascent and descent from and to the various caverns is accomplished. Though inferior to many similar grottoes in other parts of the world the Cango is unique of its kind

in South Africa and is consequently considered a great lion—each succeeding visitor's name is recorded on the walls or pillars, and certainly a strange and numerous collection there is. The names of warriors, poets, statesmen; the bold, the beautiful, and fair,—the quick and the dead here are jumbled together in most singular juxtaposition. But the Dutch of course preponderate, and next to them, I think, is the Indian list, to which my companion and myself of course followed the barbarous and usual English custom of adding our patronymics.

As there is but little worthy of note to be seen in this part of the world, the tourist had better proceed from the Cango to the south and enter the Lange Kloof. The road will bring him into this long valley or strip of land which extends about 80 miles between two ranges of hills and is nowhere more than a couple of miles in width, at Eizelsjagt, from whence the Dorp or village of George is distant about three hours ride.

George is situated on a plain near the sea shore and is about six hours ride from Mossel Bay. Were it not for the extreme difficulty of access by land to this place, it would undoubtedly soon be a large and populous place, having the advantage of so fine a port as Mossel Bay. But immediately behind the town of George runs an immense range of hills, not traversible but with only very great labour and by a few passes only. The nearest is that over the Cradock Mountain, and it is very long, steep and dangerous. The range of mountains of which this is one, forms the south side of the Lange Kloof as the Outeniqua Mountains do the north side.

George itself is a pretty and regular built village with a considerable population. A church is building large enough for a metropolitan cathedral, but seems in a fair way of never being finished. There are some kind and

agreeable inhabitants, but generally speaking the Georgians are not famous for their hospitality and there is no house of accommodation for visitors; but report says, one is about to be established.

If the tourist visits George at the present period of his trip, he should without doubt proceed from thence by the two famous or rather infamous passes of Kayman's Gat, and Trekadatow to the Knysna and Plettenberg's Bay, distant about 60 and 70 miles.

The port, river and scenery of the Knysna with its kind and hospitable inhabitants are excessively well worthy of being visited. The first view of its calm and placid basin with the two or three small brigs lying in it, its green fields and dense forests, strikes the beholder with astonishment that such scenery and such fertility can exist in the same country and within so short a distance of it, as the Karroo, the Gamka and the wearisome cold and bare Langekloof.

The detour by Knysna and Plettenberg's Bay will amply repay the traveller's pains, and the passage over the mountains by the Devil's or Horse's Head will give him a just idea of African mountain scenery. The latter is certainly a most terrific pass.

The descent from this (the Paardekop) brings the tourist again into the Langekloof, in which there is nothing to attract his attention, and the more rapidly he can traverse it and its fellow kloof of the Kromme River the better. From hence a few days' journey brings him to Uitenhage, a pretty and thriving village, inhabited, as is George also, almost entirely by Dutch. There is nothing worth seeing here, but it is the spot which has been recommended by the present Governor of the Colony for the future seat of Government, and as such deserves notice. This probably arises in the greatest measure from its vicinity to Port Elizabeth, a thriving little seaport in Algoa Bay, the most

eastern of the British ports, and therefore a place of consequence, as the port of the north-eastern frontier,—Uitenhage and Graham's Town. The exports and imports already amount to a considerable sum and were far greater before the late Kafir irruption and war.—Vide Appendix.

About ninety miles from Port Elizabeth, and that of most miserable looking country, is the capital of the British province of Albany and of the north-eastern frontier—Graham's Town. This is now a place of considerable size and consequence, though originally as badly chosen a site for a town as could have been found. It is situated in a punch-bowl-like hollow, with nothing whatever to recommend it, and the town is at best but a very dull place for a stranger to remain many days at, as there are no places of public amusement and not much society. But it is improving daily.

The village of Bathurst, about thirty miles from Graham's Town and the mouths of the Cowie, Kleine, Monden and Fish Rivers are well worth visiting, the scenery being romantic and beautiful. From Graham's Town too, several interesting tours might formerly have been made into Kafir land and to visit the different posts occupied by our troops in the ceded territory and late Province of Queen Adelaide; but these are now all at an end owing to the insane policy of Lord Glenelg, and his fit and worthy follower Captain Stockenstrom.

And now having brought my reader and fellow traveller thus far I shall leave him to pursue his farther route to the northern and western parts of the colony, should he be so disposed, by himself, and consider my task as guide completed and myself entitled to my discharge ; and proceed in my subsequent chapters to treat of the inhabitants of the Colony and their mode of living—their manners and customs—sports, and finally their present and future prospects. So, gentle reader, for this my second chapter “ vale ! ”

## CHAPTER III.

The Colony of the Cape of Good Hope contains a vast variety of inhabitants. In enumerating them I shall give them precedence according to their arrival, and mention the Hottentots, Dutch, Malays, free blacks, and apprentices (late slaves), and lastly, the English.

Though it has often been denied and the general opinion in England seems against it, the fact is now ascertained and established beyond a doubt that the Hottentot tribes are the aboriginal inhabitants, not only of those tracts now comprised within the limits of the Colony, but also of the ceded territory, the late province of Queen Adelaide and even far beyond the Keiskamma River. Hundreds of old documents now in course of translation and publication under the auspices of Sir Benjamin D'Urban and the superintendance of Mr. Donald Moodie, form an incontrovertible and complete chain of evidence reaching from the earliest periods of the Dutch rule down to the present time, and proving that the various tribes of Hottentots did, until a comparatively recent date, possess lands far beyond the Keiskamma, from which they have been recently driven by their more warlike and dishonest Kafir neighbours. These Kafirs have for a great number of years been gradually, by means of repeated conquests of the intermediate tribes, progressing southward and eastward until they have within the last few months been formally acknowledged by our present imbecile ministry, the lords and rightful owners of that soil to which their sole claim was founded on superior strength and the right of conquest. But I am not now

going to bring the “vexata quœstio” of right in these lands on the tapis—I shall hereafter have occasion to advert to that—at present therefore shall confine myself to describing the Hottentots as they now exist.

Low in stature, ungainly in mein, approaching the wild beasts as nearly in features as in habits—what has the Hottentot to recommend him? just one and only one faculty, and that one which puts to flight at once the vain and false dogmas of the learned and polite of Europe, who assert that an ear and a taste for instrumental music of the higher order are the results of education and the concomitants of refinement. The simple Hottentot and every one of the tribe is blessed with an ear capable of discerning and a mind capable of retaining the most difficult piece of music after having once heard it played. But having said thus much in their favour, I should be “tacitus de moribus Hottentotum,” were it not that truth and the anxious desire to see justice done to a numerous and excessively ill-treated body of my fellow subjects compels me to hold “as t'were the mirror up to nature,” and exhibit the various denominations of inhabitants of this Colony in their true colors, neither tinged with the pale green light of prejudice nor highly colored with the blood red falsehoods that have of late been circulated in England regarding them.

The total number of Hottentots at present within the Colony is not easily ascertainable, as they are scattered about in various situations. There are a considerable number of them at the different Missionary Establishments and Institutions, at some of which, and more especially the Môravian ones, they are induced at times to work, but idleness is the prevailing feature of the Hottentot character. Gifted by nature with prodigious appetites they are possessed also of the very greatest power of endurance of

hunger and thirst ; and so long as they can obtain sufficient to keep body and soul together without laboring, few of them can be induced to exert themselves. Add to this that the prices of the necessaries of life, especially meat, are so low and the wages for labor so high, that a Hottentot can gain enough by two days' labor to support him in comparative comfort for the rest of the week ; and a third day's labor will afford him the means of passing the remainder of the week in the state which he considers absolute felicity, namely, gross intoxication. In spite of their readily quoting the instructions of the Missionaries and even the words of Holy Writ itself against it, they are so far from believing drunkenness to be a crime that I have known one of the best Hottentot servants that ever I saw, an attendant at a Missionary chapel, and one from whose mouth texts were frequently issuing, actually ask his master for a dollar and leave to be drunk for four and twenty hours ! The standard of morality too in other respects is at the very lowest ebb among them. Decency forbids my attempting to describe the scenes I have but too often witnessed. There may be, and I believe are, some individuals among them who during the period of their actual residence at the Missionary institutions contrive to abstain from the commission of any of these grosser immoralities ; but the number of these is few and their stay at the stations is but short. Those Hottentots who are in service do many of them behave well as long as they are well watched and not trusted, but the temptation of liquor is too strong to be resisted by any of them. Such then being the Hottentot's character—add to this his nomadic habits which prevent his ever remaining long in one place, his addiction to field sports in preference to every other pursuit, and then say, gentle reader, if you can wonder at the Hottentot tribes being unable to retain their country from the grasp of the

Kafir invader? In proof of the desire for constant change inherent in every Hottentot breast, I may mention the usual reason urged by both males and females among them when asked why they wish a discharge from a service where they have been well treated and happy; namely, "*we have been a long time here!*" Such are the Hottentots or aboriginal inhabitants of the Cape of Good Hope. Let us now turn our eyes towards the Dutch—for Dutch they still are and will long remain though the Colony has been now thirty-one years in possession of the British.

The Dutch of Cape Town or Kapenaars, are a distinct race of themselves, of whom I can say but little from my limited knowledge of them, and that little has already been noted in a previous chapter. But the Cape Boer, the farmer of the Colony, as he is to be found from Hottentot's Holland or Franschhoek to the Orange River, from the plains of the Tarka to Rubeck's Kasteel, is every where one and the same individual. Similar in size and shape of person, similarly arrayed, living in exactly the same way, in houses built with scarcely any variation on the similar plan, to see one is to see all, and the same remark applies with equal justice to their better halves. Plain in person and features, stoutly built, clothed in a duffle jacket of coarse texture and a pair of tanned sheep-skin oh-no-we-never-mention-ems, commonly called crackers, and a felt hat with a broad brim—there is Mynheer Buffel standing at the door of his house, leaning with his two hands on the half hatch and looking at the cattle going into the kraal. Let us pay him a visit, gentle reader, and you will know exactly what a Boer and his family are like.

We ride up the front of the house to the everlasting *stoep* or platform and pull up, when the conversation thus commences and proceeds—after due shaking of hands.

Traveller—"Goeden dag, Mynheer."—"Good day, Sir.")  
 Mynheer Buffel—" Goeden dag—Aff-klim."—"Dismount.")

Traveller dismounts.

Mynheer Buffel—" Will not you take your saddles off?"  
 Off come the saddles, the Boer generally assisting. The horses are knee haltered or hobbled and turned loose to take a roll and the Boer continues—

Mynheer Buffel—" Kom binnen"—" Elit."—" Come in—sit down." (Introducing his family and pointing first to the woman on the side of the room) " Myn vrouw,—myn dochters." Down sits the traveller on one of the chairs which are planted against the wall and takes a survey of the room—the voorhuis or entrance hall which does duty for drawing room. On entering the front door he perceives that a small green baize covered table stands at the window (if there be any) on each hand of him. On the opposite side of the room are two dining tables against the wall and a row of chairs. At the first of these tables sit two women, being perhaps the wife and mother-in-law of the farmer, at the other the farmer himself sits. The accompaniments of the former are fire stools to keep the ladies' feet warm, a small chafing dish with a coffee kettle on it and tea cups and saucers, the two former on the ground,—the latter on the table. The articles of luxury near the other are none; simply—a spitting box. But it is time the traveller's survey should be ended, for Mynheer Buffel and his ladies alike think that he has kept silence too long—so they commence the conversation with—

Mynheer—Where do you come from ?

Traveller—Cape Town.

Juffrouw—Where are you going ?

Traveller—Graham's Town.

Juffrouw—What's your name?—" Who are you ?")

Traveller gives his name and designation.

Juffrouw—"Are you married?"

Traveller—"Yes"—or no as the case may be.

Juffrouw—"How many children have you?"

Traveller—Answer ad lib.

Juffrouw—"Where's your vrouw?"

Traveller—"In England."

Juffrouw—"What, do you trust your wife so far without you?"

Traveller—"Yes, why shouldn't I?"

Mynheer—"More than I would do, isn't it, Saatfe?"

Juffrouw—"Certainly."

And here follows a grand *Guffman*—in which of course the traveller joins. Next succeeds catechism the second regarding your pursuits, what you are going up the country for and what your *trade* is.—Every traveller must have a trade of some sort, the idea that any can be a gentleman and have nothing to do is one that finds no entrance into a Boer's brain nor can he comprehend it. The conversation then hangs heavy or lags if the traveller is a "*regt Engelschman*," but if he has sufficient *savoir faire* to enter into the spirit of the thing and takes up his parable and catechism in turn, he will get over the time pleasantly enough, especially if his class contains as it frequently does some youthful female catechists, the daughters of mine host. These, however bashful and timid they may appear, at the first blush, and however awkward they seem to a stranger's eye, are far from wanting in sense or shrewdness, and the polished traveller must not on this account or for some indelicacies of language condemn them in toto, but ought to remember that they have not had imparted to them the "*Promethean touch of education*," and that their school has been that of nature, simple, unguided, unbridled nature. Their indelicacies are those of words more

than anything else, and though they sound strange to us they convey no such meaning as we attach to them, to ears which are in the daily and constant habit of hearing them used. The traveller should overlook these things. I have frequently heard the very girls who had perhaps set me off in a roar of laughter, and horrified my more strict laced companions with their free use of plain words, and made them deem them almost idiots, shortly afterwards canvassing our merits and imperfections with the most perfect freedom, and passing such sentences on us as would have made us look somewhat foolish had I not known and entered into the joke, which I found a common enough one to ascertain the amount of your knowledge of the Dutch language. A traveller having some acquaintance with the language and concealing it, may frequently hear some very amusing remarks regarding himself and party. But to return to my subject. Conversation having occupied the interval, broken at one time by the offer of a cup of coffee from the *vrouw*, at another a scopie or dram from the *bas*, or may be, if you are in favor, some sweetmeats from the fair hands of the *jung juffrouwen*, a rush of Hottentots or apprenticed female servants takes place, the tables are placed in the centre of the room, cloth laid, and lo! dinner is on the table! during which preparatory scene the *huisvrouw*, "on hospitable thoughts intent," has been trotting about the house as busy as a clacking hen. At length the chairs are placed and the master invites his guest to the board with these or similar words, "*Come, sit here—Eat!*" The dinners and suppers are plentiful and substantial, and indeed constitute the only meals of the Boers. They usually rise early in the morning and take a cup of coffee, and lounge about the place till dinner time, namely between eleven and noon. This is a very substantial meal. Meats roasted and stewed, fowls, vegetables, bread, cheese,

are all on the table. At about two o'clock the Dutch take their siesta and on rising from their beds the coffee or teapot is introduced and kept by the juffrouw's side till night. Between seven and eight is the usual supper hour. This meal is similar to the dinner with the addition of stewed fruits and *mealis* or Indian corn stewed in milk. Milk constitutes the usual beverage. Though in the wine districts that liquor is of course much drank, it is not procurable in the remoter parts of the Colony. A *sopie* of Cape brandy is pretty generally obtainable, and at some of the wealthier Boers' houses French brandy and hollands; but these are rare.

In some parts, and chiefly on main roads where travellers are very frequent and where a charge is sometimes made for accommodation, &c., the farmers are adopting the habit of giving visitors breakfasts after the English mode, in the morning, and also of providing them with a separate table, but this is not the usual habit of the country. Generally the traveller on arriving at a house waits patiently till the next meal is announced. If he is very hungry and has missed a meal, a plain request will always elicit bread and butter, mutton chops, eggs, or the Dutchman's stand-by, *bill-tung*. But travellers must avoid two things, "*hints*" and "*thank ye's*." The former, though as broad as can possibly be, are quite unintelligible to these primitive people, and the latter is always taken as a refusal (*Dank u*); as indeed it is in every language but English. This English mode of using "*thank you*" is now becoming so well known on the continent of Europe, that it is no unusual thing for a foreigner on making any offer and being thanked for it, to ask with his politest bow, and most captivating grimace, "*merci oui?*" or "*merci non?*"

If a traveller proposes sleeping at the house where he has supped and which is of course usual, supper being

the "ultima Thule" of a Dutchman's day and the immediate forerunner of his sleep, he is shewn to his room almost instantly after the conclusion of the meal. This is partly the result of habit and partly necessity. In the larger houses, where there is always a spare room for travellers, it arises from the early hours of the family; but in the smaller houses the arrival of guests forces some of the family from their beds and they are constrained to sleep on *shake-downs* in the *voorhuis* or hall. These cannot be made up till the guests have gone to bed and the tables are withdrawn; hence the early bed going.

The usual business hours of the Boers are between dinner and supper. On week days they attend to their farms, but are not addicted to over-working themselves. On Sundays they sometimes attend the *Kerk*, and on others pay visits to their neighbours. The churches being few and far between, and the size of the farms rendering the population a widely scattered one, the more distant Boers cannot attend very frequently, as two, three and more days are occupied in making the journey on horseback or in their waggons. Nevertheless the congregations are usually more dense than might be expected.

The established religion of the Colony is the reformed Dutch faith,—which approaches very nearly in its tenets and form of worship to the Presbyterian. The ministers are chiefly Scotch and some Afrikaanders. But all religions are of course tolerated and there is a strong sprinkling of Dissenters of the old Dutch, and other persuasions. These chiefly reside in Cape Town.

The Boers generally pursue the even tenor of their way, vegetating rather than living. Their farms average about 6,000 acres and are of course chiefly grazing and breeding farms. Very few of them, from various causes, ever turn their attention to agriculture beyond what the immediate

sustenance of their families requires, except those who have the facilities of contiguity and good roads to a certain market, such as is afforded them by Cape and Graham's Towns, or some of the larger military posts on the frontier. Colonial restrictions prevent the growth of grain for exportation except under certain conditions, which incapacitate the farmer from turning his attention to corn cultivation except for his own home consumption.

Sunday is, as I before observed, their day of recreation, and on some other occasions a scene of festivity occurs termed "*vrolikhheid*" which certainly beggars description. These out-bursts are however of rare occurrence and gradually decreasing with the increase of moral feeling and amended habits among this generous, hospitable, worthy and primitive race of men. New year is generally kept up with considerable jollity, especially in the Tarka and other remote parts of the Colony; and a meeting of Boers at that period affords the traveller, who is desirous of studying human nature, the best opportunity of judging of the character of the Dutch in their laxer moments. But he must not from what he will then witness, form his opinion of their usual mode of life—the scale of morality among them, the sobriety of the men, or the modesty of the women. "*Nemo mortalium omnibus horis sapit*," and this will in time mend itself.

I have heard divers contradictory opinions broached and maintained by individuals regarding the standard of virtue among the female Afrikaanders. In most cases, I suspect, that "*ex uno discere omnes*" has been the motto of their accusers, and that their conclusions were drawn from insufficient data. My own opinion from a residence of some time among them, and that on the most intimate terms, is that virtue is just as common among them as it can be among a class totally devoid of any thing like

education, and almost without the knowledge that infidelity is a crime; and I am convinced that the freedom of speech, and in some instances of behaviour, of the women has led many a superficial observer to imagine a want of virtue where none such really existed. Instances of infidelity will of course occur in every community, but the public records bear me out in this assertion that in few communities of a similar extent are there so few divorces on the ground of infidelity as in this Colony. Ante-nuptial lapses from virtue can but seldom happen, from the early age at which both sexes marry and from the scarcity of "*spinsters*" in the Colony. During the whole period of my residence and sojourn among them I never saw but one Dutch woman entitled to the designation of "old maid," and I had the felicity of being present at her marriage to an ancient widower before I quitted South Africa.

Amusements there are none among the Boers, with the exception, as I before said, of their "*vrolikheds*." They are addicted to no species of gambling; but some few among the horse breeders attend the races at the different district capitals, and run their horses there, and they have some few shooting matches similar to Raffle's. The women are still worse off, so that the arrival of a "*smous*" or pedlar, or the annual or semi-annual jaunt in the waggon to the capital of their district or to Cape or Graham's Town, and Sundays, are the only holidays they know. The men never walk if they can help it beyond a hundred yards and the women as many feet. Their sedentary life naturally tells upon them, and this added to their rich living causes the farmers to assume a portly appearance and their wives a rotundity amounting almost to obesity. But the vastness of his wife constitutes the pride and the happiness of the husband. I shall long remember the look of exultation with which my old friend Cobus K——r

introduced his mountain of a wife to me with the remark “*Myneher heb nooit zoo kleine vrouw gezien!*” (“You have never seen so little a woman!”)—as he pointed to her *slim figure* edging sideways through the door way.

The servants on the farms and in the houses of the Boers are chiefly free apprentices (late slaves), and some Hottentots. At harvest and other occasions they also hire extra Hottentots. These are generally well used, clothed and fed, and altogether exercise a freedom totally unintelligible to the “regular Englishman.” Their children are running about the house, playmates and almost equals with the children of the *maison*. The apprentices perform most of the labor of the farm and in wet weather every thing, as there is nothing a Boer dislikes so much as a wet jacket, which no temptation of money or any thing else will induce his incurring the risk of,—if avoidable.

There are some peculiarities in their opinions of which the most striking is this. They have so little idea of the science of political or domestic economy, that they cannot understand how it is more advantageous to them to sell wool or any other article of produce on the spot, at a somewhat lower rate than they can get for it at a market two hundred miles off. The journey occupies them, their waggons, servants and cattle perhaps ten days, perhaps a month, but the time, wear and tear, or loss of labor is never taken into consideration, and a Boer will not sell his grain or wool at home for one farthing less than the market price! Such is the character of that portion of the population of the Colony which the veteran commandant of Port Elizabeth once particularized as “*The aborigines of South Africa—the Dutch Boers!*”

There are several Malays resident in Cape Town and some few in other parts of the Colony who are free. Also a vast number of the free apprentices are of Malay extrac-

tion on the mother's side, who the fathers were matters not. As far as personal appearance goes the females of this class have a great advantage over the men. The latter are generally small, slight made, sharp featured, with all the smart but cunning look of their Malay progenitors.

The former on the contrary take considerably more after the Europeans, and a stranger is frequently struck with the beauty of both form and feature displayed by some of these Eur-Afrikaanders (to coin a word after the present fashion, similar in import to Eur-Asian and Indo-Briton.) Besides which many of them are of clear and light complexions with a colour that no northern beauty need to be ashamed of.

Besides these classes there is also a considerable number of free blacks of every part of the world. Guinea Coast men, Mozambiqueurs, Abyssinians, Bengalis, &c. &c. &c.

Add to these, a few Bushmen and wild Hottentots who live in the woods and subsist on roots and the produce of the chace; a very diminutive and savage race,—with roguery enough in them for men of three times their stature—and so monkeyish in appearance that Sir Richard Philips, *that valuable authority*, in his equally valuable book yclept "*a million of Facts*," gravely assures the world that they are a half breed between Hottentots and ourang-outangs ! a FACT which I am grieved to be forced to contradict, there being no ourang-outangs in South Africa !

Add also, some tribes of Mantalees and Phengoes, nations of which the small remnants took refuge in the Colony when their names as nations were destroyed by the kafirs in their gradual south-western movement hereafter alluded to; also a few baastaerds or half-caste Hottentots and the list of Colonial inhabitants is nearly complete.

## C H A P T E R I V.

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Having disposed of all these older residents in the Colony I now come to treat of our own countrymen. Cape Town of course abounds in British of every description and denomination; for where is the spot in the universe where the British flag has not waved triumphant? or where the land which British enterprise and industry have not successfully peopled with merchants and tradesmen?

Cape Town and the Castle there are at present the Head Quarters of His Excellency Sir Benjamin D'Urban the Governor of the Colony, and also of two regiments of Foot, of which I shall hereafter have occasion to make more particular mention. Besides the staff and other officers there are also resident in town a vast number of British merchants, tradespeople and mechanics. A small number too of English farmers are scattered over the various districts of the Colony, and many of the Government offices are filled by Englishmen. But the province that more particularly belongs (if I may so use the term) to the British is Albany, situated on the north-east frontier of the Colony.

It will be still fresh in the recollection of many of my readers that in the year 1819 the ministry at that time in power, actuated by a very different and more extended line of policy than that of our present Whig rulers, seeing the eventual wealth and value of the Cape of Good Hope, and desirous of affording it the means of defraying its own expences and ultimately helping to bear the burden of maintaining our vast empire, held out certain inducements to the public to colonize part of the Cape territory. Several

parties of settlers accordingly came out, and though accidents at home and subsequently the loss of the "Abeona" transport at sea prevented many from ever reaching their destination, still a considerable body arrived and were located by the Colonial Government in different parts, but chiefly in Albany and its neighbourhood. There were and still are Boers too in this province, but the generality of the population is British, and the Boers of Albany from proximity and constant intercourse with their British fellow colonists have attained a far greater degree of civilization than their brethren of the other districts.

The settlers, as the British immigrants are styled, without departing from any of the essentially necessary customs of their fatherland and which are translateable to any country, have engrafted on the European stock several Afrikaander habits indigenous to the climate. Many too with these habits have taken to themselves Afrikaander wives, and laid the foundation of as fine and bold a peasantry as that which called forth the lamentations of the Bard of Auburn. The houses of the immigrants are necessarily built much after the Dutch style as being more adapted to a climate where the sun is frequently as powerful as in Bengal Proper. Many of them too adopt the Boer's dress, even to the duffle jacket and crackers, partly from the above cause, and from the latter being the produce of their own farms. But they are still Britons, and carry to the shores of South Africa the energy and skill necessary to set a bright example to their Dutch fellow subjects, whose chief fault is indolence. Their mode of living is a mixture of the English and Dutch fashions, and in all their agricultural and farming pursuits they have introduced several modern European implements, thereby materially improving the old modes. In travelling however they are at a stand still. In a country where there are very few

or no roads but those formed by the wheels of some adventurous charioteer's vehicle, no improvement can possibly be made upon the old fashioned long, heavy but commodious waggon of the Dutch Boers, and this is the universal locomotive engine. The stranger on first viewing one of these with its *span* or team of oxen from ten to twenty in number and its driver with his vast and seemingly unwieldy whip looking like the angling rod and tackle of the Giant Polypheme when "he sat upon a rock and bobb'd for whale," cannot but look on it as a very unfit conveyance for either goods or live freight, more especially if seen on the smooth road between Rondebosch and Cape Town. But when he views the same machine laboring up or down one of the mountain passes, now thundering over stones each as big as a regimental base drum, and anon bounding from cliff to cliff with tremendous velocity and fearful force;—when he sees it poised as it were on the airy summit of the "*Paarde Kop*" or "*Duyrif's Kop*," while the drag chains are being fastened; and looks down on the succession of almost perpendicular slides (like Montague's Russes for slipperiness) that it must traverse before it can reach the vale below, he confesses that the Cape waggon is the only wheeled vehicle that could possibly traverse such roads without utter annihilation.

There are two peculiarities about Dutch roads which I may here mention. The first, that a traveller wishing to reach a point which is in sight and perceiving two roads, one seemingly leading direct to it and the other in another direction, must invariably take the indirect one, for that which appears direct is sure to take him far out of his way! The other is, that if a hill or pass lies before him he may make up his mind to having a fine view of the surrounding country from the very highest pinnacle of it, as all Dutch road-makers make a point of surmounting every possible

difficulty ! Noticing this, brought to my recollection a remark of, I think, Prince Pucklar Muskau, who, on observing a road something similar to these, exclaimed "I could not but admire the bold and determined spirit which prompted the engineer to surmount the hill instead of going round the bottom of it !"

Not to mislead my readers I may here remark that the Boers and settlers also use a lighter species of waggon for light weights and travelling drawn by six, eight and ten horses. Also light carts with from two to six in the team, but these are not very common.

The settlers are now scattered all over the provinces of Albany, Somerset and Uitenhage, though they were originally located in parties according as they came out. The intention of the Home Government at the time of the immigration was that each settler should receive a free grant of, I believe, a hundred acres of land, adapted for agricultural purposes. But the extent of the grant was fixed without a due knowledge of the country and on the supposition that Africa was equally fertile as England: This proved beyond a doubt that the Colonial Secretary had sunk his classical friends or Horace himself would have reminded him of the scarcity of water ; ("Jubo tellus, leonum *arida* nutrix.") Far from this being the case some parts are entirely destitute of water, many but scantily supplied, and few affording the means of irrigation. For where water is most plentiful the land is most undulating, and the beds of the brooks and rivers are generally so deep as to preclude drawing off water unless by ditches so deep that labor cannot be procured to dig them. In many places it is utterly impossible to lead the water.

In consequence of this discovery the Colonial Government was obliged to extend the grants, and the settlers became converted from an agricultural into a grazing com-

munity. Many of them, who were mechanics, of course betook themselves to their old pursuits in preference to farming. Others, not deeming the prospect sufficiently encouraging, adopted other modes of life in the towns, &c. But many remained at their locations. Among these latter I may be permitted to particularize my friends the Pringles of *Glen Lynden*, a family, which with its patriarchal father at its head quitted its fatherland to establish its Lares on an African frontier ; and introduced into the wilds of the *Baviaan's River* the rigid and inflexible honesty, the useful education and the practical knowledge of Scottish farmers, together with the names of every glen, hill and burn which had been dear to them in infancy. The Scotchman wandering amid the wild but beautiful scenery of the Baviaan's River (now called Glen Lynden) will have his ear saluted with many a familiar word such as Eildon, Wyndhope Fell, Ittaick Forest, Teviot, &c.

The venerable father of this large family was still alive a few months ago when I visited him at Clifton Pringle; since which I had the misfortune to witness the untimely death of one of his sons; if misfortune it can be called to be present at the release from its mortal prison of the spirit of a truly good and pious man. Requiescat in pace !

Another of the patriarchal old man's sons, also dead, was sufficiently well known as a polemical writer, a poet of no mean acquirements, and latterly as Secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society. Death and his family are quite sufficient to prevent my making any harsh remarks regarding him, but I cannot refrain from recording my wish that he had not been a Pringle or, being a Pringle, had not acted as he did, to the detriment of the Colony, and of thousands in it. But I am travelling out of my record, so to return.

The soil of Albany is good. Those parts which are capable of irrigation will produce almost every kind of

crop. Some few spots under the hills will produce most crops without irrigation, from the constant supply of moisture derived from the clouds which hang around the hills and forests; and the whole district is adapted for horse and cattle breeding. In some parts the grass is of a sour kind on which cattle bred in sweet pastures do not thrive, but beasts bred on it fatten and do well. The greater part of the province is also well calculated for sheep farms—wool is and must ever be the staple production of Albany and indeed of the Colony in general.

The remarks on this province will pretty generally apply to all the other provinces of the Colony, above the first of my *natural steps*. South of them, is the wine country and the rich agricultural as well as pastoral district of Zwartland. The map at the commencement of this volume will show the relative positions of the districts better than all graphic description and to that I refer my readers. The immediate neighbourhood of Cape Town is of course thickly peopled with English. I mean Rondebosch, Wynleeng and Simon's Town, where there is a dock yard and the head quarters of the admiral on the station. Beyond that English residents are comparatively scarce till you come to Swellendam and the sub-district of Caledon, where there are a good many farms in the possession of English. They then become gradually scarcer as the traveller passes eastward till the neighbourhood of Uitenhage is gained; from whence to the extreme frontier they are the preponderating population. Somerset and Graff Reynett also contain a considerable number of English, but there are very few in the northern and western parts of the Colony as the Rogge and Bokvelds, &c.

In Albany, English is of course the predominating language, in other parts it is but little and in many wholly

unknown, especially towards the north and west, so that a smattering of Dutch is almost indispensable to travellers.

Graham's Town, the capital of Albany, contains the only English or Episcopalian church in the colony, except those in Cape Town and its vicinity.\* In the other parts of the Colony, as I mentioned before, the Dutch Reformed church is the established one. In many parts I have heard complaints, especially where the English were numerous, of the refusal of the Dutch ministers to read occasional services in English. This ought to be looked to and remedied or it will cause great discontent and strengthen the hands of the Dissenters, of whom there are a very numerous and most respectable body of various sects in Albany, and especially in Graham's Town. Of these the Wesleyans are perhaps the most respected, and after them the Independants. The mention of these reminds me that it is time to close this chapter, and progress to a new one.

But, previous to my inditing the last chapter of this pamphlet, in which I propose giving a brief summary of the past, present state and future prospects of the Colony, with some reflections on the policy now pursued by the ministry at home regarding it, with its disastrous consequences, and also enumerating the advantages and disadvantages likely to attend Indians or others settling here, I shall briefly advert to the field sports of South Africa as pursued by the Boers, settlers and other inhabitants.

\* The Moravian or Hemhutter is also an Episcopalian church and acknowledged by the established church of England as the only pure church except herself—but I have not excepted these churches as the fact is not generally known nor have they more than one bishop, the head of the church.

## C H A P T E R V.

The map at the beginning of the volume shewing the situation of the places I shall have occasion to mention let us commence near Cape Town and gradually advance by the same route as my readers did in the second chapter.

The immediate vicinity of Cape Town affords but little sport. Partridges are to be found, but far from numerous. On the flats there are partridges, korhaans, duikers, steen-bok, and in some of the salt marshes wild ducks and snipe.

The mode of shooting partridges and the smaller species of bok (as all the antelope genus are styled here, as well as the common tame goat) is this. The shooter mounted on a good steady horse takes his direction through the bushes or heath as it may be, carrying his gun. He should have two good pointers—the larger and more white about them the better, as being better able to top the stiff bushes and more readily seen when at a point. On the dog's coming to a stand he rides up to them, and either fires from his horse on the bird's rising, or gets off and fires in the usual way. A little practice will enable a tolerable shot to fire equally well either way, provided his horse be steady. A really good shooting horse will stop of his own accord on the gun being raised to the present; and it is usual for them to stand where the rider leaves them, if the bridle be turned over the head and allowed to hang; or if the bridle be left on the neck to follow the rider. But this must not be depended on unless the shooter knows the horse well. Many of the Colonial pointers stand to all game, partridge, korhaan, bok or hare; but others will

only stand to partridge, and run the other three. The action of the dog and his carrying his nose high will point out if he winds a buck on foot, when calling to him will probably prevent his giving chase.

The partridge flies like the grey partridge of India and that to the sportsman is quite sufficient description. The steenbok and blikbok go off at a rapid and eager pace, but are easily stopped with a few grains of BB. or A. or AA.

The duiker bok or diver jumps suddenly up and plunges through the bushes like a heavy cutter close-hauled plunging her bows into the sea. This obtains for it its peculiar name of duiker and *antelope mergens*. There are varieties of this bok found in the Colony, such as the dodger, &c. These too are very easily shot.

A little farther from Cape Town and generally throughout the Colony, the sportsman will meet with a variety of partridge called "redwing," from a peentear color on the centre of the wing coverts. They fly heavier and slower than the other species and are larger birds.

There are many varieties of the korhaan and a few of the *paauw* or peacock as it is here called, being exactly the bustard of India. These fine birds are very watchful and easily take alarm. I have known Hottentots creep or stalk them where there was any bush or cover at all. But this can seldom be done. Usually the *paauw* takes up his position in the centre of a plain as bare of cover as a deal board, and there looks on the intruder approaching till he thinks the distance getting too small when off he flies. The usual mode of getting a shot is by putting your horse into a gentle canter, and riding a gradual increasing circle round him till near enough to pull up and fire. A ball is safer than any shot for a *paauw*, as if hit, there is no mistake about it.

'There is also a bird, general all over the Colony, styled "pheasant," though about as like a pheasant of England as a Dutch Boer is to a Bond-street exquisite. Nevertheless they are pretty shooting.

On reaching the Swellendam district the sportsman should leave the main road and go in search of the *pygargs* or bontiboks. But it is necessary first to obtain leave from the Government, as these bok are scarce and strictly preserved, being found nowhere but in this district, although the blesbok of Kafraria very nearly approaches them. This bok is a little darker in color with more black on him.

There is no remarkable change in the game list on this road or the main one for a considerable way, but at a short distance from town the sportsman will begin to see the light and graceful rheebok bounding over the hill tops or up their sides; every now and then standing and gazing at the waggon winding along beneath him, stamping with his slight forefoot and sending his peculiar whistle down the breeze. There are two ways of getting at these, both fatiguing. One to follow them on foot up the hills to the point where they disappeared over the top ridge, and then stalk them. The other, which I think the preferable one, is to ride slowly along the foot of the hills till you see the troop at graze on the plain. Keep slowly along as long as they move slowly; but the instant they begin to trot or canter, push rapidly ahead. They always make direct for the hills and you can either head them and fire as they pass or pull up close to them, dismount and wait till they stand which they always do on attaining the first projecting rock—frequently at only a few yards distance. When you are used to the sport and can carry your eye on to see where there is a good ledge within shot of the plain, you can regulate your pace so as to bring the bok exactly

to it,—recollecting that however fast you ride, they will always head you if possible. This bok makes excellent *bill-tung*, is very good eating when kept a day or two, and the skin makes, when *brayed*, unexceptionable saddle cloths.

Snakes of all kinds, especially puffadders, will be met with but not nearly so numerous as in India. The sportsman may use his discretion in shooting them, as also the *dassee* or rock rabbit (so called,) and red rock hare, which are found in most rocky elevated situations.

The next variety of game, except small *bok* of which the species are very numerous, which the sportsman will meet with, following the route above alluded to, will be the ostrich on the Gamka flats. The first that are seen by a stranger at a distance grazing are generally mistaken for white or black cattle, according as their heads or tails are turned towards the beholder. Now, gentle reader, the ground here is like some of the cotton grounds in India but a great deal more *holy*, and you have no child to play with. The Boers and Hottentots alike creep or stalk the ostrich under cover of bushes or little eminences, and sometimes sit in a bush for days for the chance of a grazing bird's casual approach. But as I take it for granted you have "a soul above" bush-squatting and taking pot shots, I shall say nothing of that mode of approach but get me into my saddle. Riding an ostrich dead on end is a thing not to be mentioned. To ride him at all it is necessary to have first a good bit of blood; secondly, good girths; thirdly, your nag must be high-couraged and yet very steady; fourthly, you require a firm seat; and fifthly, good luck and an utter disregard to all *purls* and *spills*. With these a tolerable ball shot may easily floor a volstruys.

On seeing the birds, keep well along with a side wind but still approaching them.

As soon as the game perceives your approach they will spread their wings and set off right in the direction of the wind, but at first can make no great progress if the wind be high, as it will catch their wings. Get your horse into a good gallop; make an oblique or diagonal approach to the road the game is taking. Keep your eye upon them, for if you get ahead of them, they will 'bout ship and leave you in the lurch by running down the wind, so you must keep just abreast but gradually approaching. Whenever they swerve either way you must do the same, and judge your distance so as not to blow your horse. The more acute the angle formed by your two courses, the less will your nag be blown, for the pace will be slower; because as soon as the birds see that you are fairly in pursuit of them they begin to travel at a pace that beggars description—the first burst of a wild boar is nothing to it, and then you must foot it as hard as possible till you get almost across their bows. Halt! as if you were on parade—spring off—steady your nerves if possible, and as the birds cross, which, if you ride them well, they will do within five yards of you,—let fly at the body of the leading cock. If you have the luck to bring one down do not be in a hurry in taking for granted that the bird is hors du combat,—and proceed to *bag* him. A wounded ostrich will break your leg or arm easily enough. Many horses enjoy the chace wonderfully and yet cannot stand the sight of a fleet of such uncouth unwieldy birds bearing down right upon them; so it is better to dismount to fire and stand the chance of losing your horse rather than your shot. A Cape shooting horse, if there are other horses out, will only run up to them and is easily caught. Even if the horse will face the birds, a gallop at the pace you are obliged to go makes him blow so as to shake the steadiest aim. I have generally seen that the first shot, even if unsuccessful, causes the birds to

change their course and run round the shooter, and a slightly wounded bird will sometimes stop and stand close to him. If you have a second barrel take a good aim at him; if not, give him up for the present, for once he sets off he will not stop till he reaches the opposite side of the plain. A good hand is requisite on your nag, as the ground is so full of mole and other holes and burrows that the horses frequently sink, sometimes up to the shoulder, if not regularly lifted to the spring; a clever horse soon finds them out and never puts his foot into a mole hole when galloping. The sportsman will frequently find the nests of ostriches. The eggs when cooked with cayenne, kidney fat and chillies, their own shell serving as saucepan, and stirred with a stick introduced through a hole made in the top are far from bad eating.

Young ostriches may be very easily taken when only a few weeks old by running them down on foot. But do not mistake an old *korhaan* for a young ostrich, or you may run for miles and see him fly away at last. When you find ostrich's eggs, send one of your Hottentots or people away with them at once to the waggon or go yourself. If you carry them with you and proceed with your shooting, the Hottentots will say they are all broken, unless the nest happens to be very full. A nest that has been sat upon, always contains four or five good eggs which the old bird pushes aside to keep as food for the chickens when first hatched.

Between Gamka and the Langekloof and Attaquaskloof the sportsman will find zebras and a large bok with long spiral horns, forming three rings called koodoos. These frequent the bush, as the junguls are here called, and require to be carefully stalked. The zebras must be ridden, much in the same manner as I shall hereafter describe for the blesbok and quagghas.

In most of the woods about this part of the Colony is to be found *boschbok*, a very handsome species of antelope, with short spiral horns and his flank dappled. They frequent the thickest bush. Stalking them is very fatiguing and almost impracticable. The best way of shooting them is with dogs. Place the shooters round the patch of bush or at openings in it on the side where the bok is most likely to break. Put any dogs that will run by scent and give tongue, into the bush, and they will soon drive the boschbok out. These bok are very easily floored with shot and are slow of foot; but a wounded ram is sometimes dangerous, being very savage and their horns sharp.

The shooter will sometimes find his dogs pottering in almost the same spot of the wood, hot on the scent and eager in their cry, but yet making no progress. This is because they have got on the scent of a *blauwbok*, a very beautiful pigmy antelope, about thirteen inches high, of a bluish slate color (whence its name.) These diminutive animals frequent the thick woods which they seldom quit, but run from bush to bush a few yards distance and round in circles. All dogs are so fond of the scent that they will not quit it to try on though they cannot catch the game. On this occurring, the best plan is for one of the shooters to dismount and enter the wood and by creeping he is sure to see and get a shot at the bok. They are good eating and the skins make very nice havresacks, or pouch covers.

On the coast side of the Langekloof the *grysrok* is the commonest species of small antelope as the duiker is in the Langekloof itself. At the extreme east end of the Langekloof the sportsman may meet with the first specimens of a very beautiful and elegant bok called *ourebi*, which are common as he proceeds farther east. They are sometimes very wild, but by riding quietly you may some-

times almost tread them down. At other times they may be seen a mile off on an open plain, grazing or gamboling. No directions can teach a man how to spy game on foot, but a little practice will enable any true sportsman readily to distinguish a bok from an anthill, however red the latter may be; and in a few days he will be able to tell with considerable certainty the species of a bok grazing be it ever so far off. An intelligent Hottentot or baestaard is the best guide and teacher of these arcana of the art.

With the exception of the korhaans, of which almost every district seems to have its own species and the small boks which also vary in the provinces, though some are common to nearly all, there is but little noticeable change in the game animals and birds from this to the frontiers of the Colony on the north east.

To the northward there is found the oryx or gemsbok, a very splendid species of antelope, with long scimetar-shaped horns; and the others mentioned in the Appendix.

The vermin of the Colony are every where to be met with. They are two species of hyenas, called here wolves, several of the tiger cat, jackals two species, ichneumons or mongooses (what are the true plurals of these two words? "ichneumata?" and "mongooses" or "mongeese?") porcupines, ant-eaters, and the "*straand wulf*" which I take to be the "*Sycaon picta*" of Burchell. It is a very handsome hyena frequenting the sea coast only. And the leopard is also common.

In the dense forests which line the kloofs or gullies and ravines that lead down at right angles to the hollow in which runs the great Fish River, now the boundary of the Colony, is found, but they are getting rare, the first *noble* game we have met with on our route, with the exception of elephants which I should have observed, are to be found

in the Zitzikamma Forest on the sea coast near Plettenberg's Bay. I mean the rhinoceros.

Shooting the rhinoceros is at all times attended with difficulty and fatigue and occasionally with danger. This animal is different from the Indian rhinoceros, having two horns on his nose instead of one; as indeed have all the varieties that are found in Africa, besides which, although his skin is very strong and thick, he is destitute of the armour or plate mail of the Indian "*ghesira*." The mode of shooting them is as follows. The party having ascertained the spots usually frequented by the game, ride as near to them as the nature of the forest or underwood will permit; and then dismount; creep swiftly and yet stealthily along, with the wind as near as possible in their faces. The animal is very wary. If a slant of wind reaches him that has crossed the hunters, he is sure either to make off or come right down on them, and their charge is as terrific as their ferocity is great. Thus keeping to leeward of him, the huge animal is at length perceived browsing on the bushes or reposing his vast bulk under one—and now the utmost vigilance is necessary. His eyes are small and so situated in the head as not to be easily brought to bear on an object, but his sense of hearing is so acute that a foot incautiously placed on a dry stick or leaf, or even the chafing of a pair of leathers are sufficient to alarm him. The party still remembering to keep to leeward and under as much cover as is compatible therewith, still creep gently up till almost close to the animal, when each shooter chooses his part to aim at and delivers his fire. If the advance is properly managed, a shooter may sometimes approach so near as to place the muzzle of his gun through the bush and almost to touch the beast before firing. Indeed that splendid shooter G. B. M——e on one occasion did actually poke one in

the ribs with his gun when lying down under a bush. One ball, if properly placed, is sufficient even for this unwieldy animal. Sportsmen have, of course, their favorite spots to aim at, but the point of the shoulder, immediately behind it, the loins or the head, are all good places. I have been told by one of the most celebrated of our South African sportsmen, that he put a ball in through the head which came out at the hip of a large cow rhinoceros. These animals are not coated with the panoply of mail that the Indian rhinoceros is. Their skin is thick and tough, but every where penetrable. The favorite weapon for shooting these animals is a large bore varying from 6 to 10 to the pound. The Boers are partial to very long guns; but for dense bush shooting the shorter the barrel the more handy it is and less liable to catch branches, &c. and, if not cut too short, the shooting is not weakened by the loss of a few inches. Besides there are no long shots fired at rhinoceros. The flesh of these animals is very good eating when they are fat and in good condition, and the hide makes capital *sandoks*, or whips for horses and oxen. If a rhinoceros sees you before you fire or afterwards, and he is not disabled, he will charge with fearful violence. This sport is, as I observed before, fatiguing in the extreme and none but the really ardent sportsman ought to attempt it.

The difference between the Indian and African rhinoceros and elephant is not more striking than in the animals termed buffaloes. The African buffaloe is more like a bison—and has short horns of a very peculiar form joined across the forehead by an immense horny protuberance which gives him a most singular and ferocious appearance. Neither is the animal's character belied by his looks. He is very savage and wary, and requires the utmost care and vigilance in stalking, as the smallest sound will bring him

down to the charge. He is found in the dense forests of the Colony, and hunted like the rhinoceros. The female wants the horny protuberance which distinguishes the male, and which in him forms a mass of horn out of which the horns spring.

The elephant of South Africa is also found in the Fish River bush. It is a different species from our much prized and useful Asiatic animal. His African brother is larger in size, shorter in the tail, different in the shape of the teeth and, I believe, in the number of toes, besides which his ears are far larger than those of the Indian *hathec*. The ears sometimes extend down almost to the knees. The African elephant has never been tamed. In his habits he seems nearly allied to the Indian. The mode of hunting them is almost the same as for the rhinoceros, but the shooters can generally travel on horseback, and of course do not usually succeed in getting so close to them as to the latter. It is advisable in elephant hunting to carry a lighted stick with the party where the bush or grass is dry enough to allow of its being used, as in the event of a herd charging you, which they frequently do, or on being fired at casually taking a direction which will lead them to you, firing the bush is the only method of turning them. If this cannot be done, lie close and they will pass without perhaps seeing you. The root of the trunk where it enters the brain is perhaps the best spot to aim at, but behind the shoulder is also a deadly place. The ivory of these elephants is far superior to the Indian. The flesh is good eating, especially the trunk and feet. The latter should be put in a hole in the ground, and fire kept round and over the hole for about thirty hours, when it will assume the appearance of a capital brown, and be excellent food ; indeed, it is inferior to none but perhaps a fat rhinoceros or a well conditioned *zeekoe* or hippopotamus.

## CHAPTER VI.

Immediately beyond the N. E. boundary of the Colony, north of the country of the Amakosa Kafirs is an immense extent of undulating downs styled the “*Bontibok Flats*,” from the number of bonti or blesbok that are found there. It is uninhabited, water not being plentiful, and there being no fire wood; but it is a favorite hunting ground of all the Kafir tribes, though situated in the country of the Amatember or Tambookie Kafirs. Here too parties from the Colony frequently resort for the purpose of sport.

The game found here consists of immense herds of *blesbok* or *bontibok*, so called from the blaze or *bles* on their faces, *springbok* the *tsebi* of Scripture, *wildebeests* or *gnus* *quagghas* a species of wild asses and the royal lion.

The shooter requires to take a waggon to live in; (some take a tent.) Also supplies of every kind;—salt and alum, if he means to preserve skins, and some arsenical soap. The best route to the flat is from Graham's Town to Fort Beaufort, thence to Balfour on the Kat River, the capital of a settlement of *Baastuerds* (or half castes) and Hottentots, and thence to the flat distant a day's journey with a waggon. The total distance from Graham's Town, is about five days' journey. From Balfour it will be advisable for a stranger to take some Hottentots or *Baastaerds* who are used to the sport, if he is not accompanying a party or individual who have previously visited the flat. These will point out where and how fire wood is to be obtained, of which must be carried with you from the head

of the *Eiland's* River a supply sufficient for three days, if you propose encamping in the centre of the flat. If not, wood can be obtained at one or two places at the edges of it, and near the Windoogel Hill or Berg. The Hottentots also shoot; many of them well; and are useful in a thousand ways, acting as guides, butchers, &c. Besides, if you meet with lions, a single gun is of no use.

The mode of shooting all but the last mentioned of the animals above enumerated is nearly the same: The party ride along the ridges and high grounds till they approach a herd of *blesbok*, *gnus* and *springbok*; sometimes separate, frequently mixed. The game on being pursued almost always runs up the wind. By riding slowly the shooters approach as near as they can, and the moment the game is alarmed they gallop their horses in a diagonal direction to cut them off, always keeping to windward; by which manœuvre the herd is compelled to cross ahead of the sportsmen, who, if they are well mounted, can always get close to the game by the time it crosses their line of march, jump off and fire one or two barrels, as time or the size of the herd will allow. Taking it as a general principle, that the windward gauge must always be preserved, sportsmen may vary their approach according to the nature of the ground, but there are one or two favorite modes of mine, which I shall mention for the benefit of the reader. One is, when riding up a ridge with the wind, you see by looking quietly over the top a herd grazing on the declivity or standing at gaze. On shewing yourself, they, being dead to leeward of you, run right or left to endeavour to turn your flank. Having seen the direction they take, which will be along the slope gradually drawing nearer to the ridge, you gallop along your side of the ridge out of their sight, and only seeing the tips of their horns. You may thus head them, get off your horse just below the

ridge, and in a few seconds the whole herd following the leader will come over the ridge within a few yards of you. The few leading bucks pull up in astonishment and stare at you, and then setting off again describe a small bend to avoid you, and thunder down the hill.

Another mode is, when you see a herd at a distance and can send two or three of your party round, so as to get on the ridge on both sides of them. By separating and advancing equally till the *troep* take alarm, and then all galloping up, you head the game first one way and then another, on each of which they find a shooter till they get so frightened as to stand still or run ring, which I have more than once known them to do till the shooters had time to load and fire again. Thus—the herd run to windward; a shot turns them to the right. Here, a second turns them again to the right or to leeward—a third drives them round again, and by that time the first shooter is ready again. At last they get desperate, and charge past you with immense velocity, and springing many yards at a time.

The *wildebeest* or gnu is also frequently shot by a long shot, fired from behind a rock or ridge above the bank on which he is feeding. But they are cunning, and require careful stalking. Moreover, they take a great deal of killing.

The gnu is a beautiful looking animal when bounding, capering, frisking his black and white tail, and gamboling as he incessantly does on his native pastures; but does not bear close examination. "'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view." The blesbok is a fine venerable old goatish looking antelope. But the springbok is the slightest, most agile and most graceful little antelope possible. Fleet as the wind, when he pleases to bound away with springs that are perfectly astonishing from the smallness and slightness of his make, and the absence of all

effort; he is so conscious of his own power that his usual pace is a walk or a short quick trot unless pursued. But still he is the wariest of the wary, as ever the first to take alarm and lead the column of gnus and *blesbok*. The *springbok's* flesh is far better than that of either *blesbok* or gnu; the latter is very hard. But light and slight as he appears many a piece of *springbok's* flesh escapes the *Carbonadje* stick after the shooter considered it fairly his own, for these are the toughest lived little animals in the world. A ten-to-the-pound ball will frequently go through and through one, without stopping him or causing him to slacken his pace the least; and I had once an hour's hard riding after one, whose lower jaw was entirely shot away, and was then obliged to give him a second ball.

The quagghas are approached much in the same way as the other game on the flat;—and are pretty easily killed if you ride well up to them, but stern chasing is no use. With their hind quarters to you, you might as well fire at the woolsack as at them. A wounded quaggha is dangerous, as he uses both heels and teeth; and I would recommend no one to repeat an experiment I once made to *crease* and bind one, as the South American Indians do the wild horses, by firing through the nape of the neck. The experiment failed and nearly cost two of us our lives. The flesh of this animal is of no use to the sportsman, though some of the Hottentots eat it. The skin is used to make bags for grain, and the thick skin at the back of the hock for soles to the native sandals or *velschoon*. The skin of the *wildebeest* or gnu when brayed, is used for *reims* or thongs to harness the oxen, and indeed for every purpose to which twine or string is usually applied in other countries.

When shooting, it is best to take a servant with one or two pack horses for game. The bok or gnu being shot,

is bled by cutting his throat, as soon as the shooter can get near enough to master him, but you must "ware horn." Then he is opened and cleaned; the legs cut off at the knee, and the head cut off, and then the carcase is placed across the back of a pack horse on 'the saddle, or on the shooter's horse behind the saddle, and the four knees drawn together under the belly of the horse, with a reim or thong. To make it ride steady, the knife is introduced between the two middle vertebræ of the back bone which is then broken; the bones of the pelvis must also be cut through. Some of the Hottentots generally take the tongue and the caul or omentum, if there is any fat on it, to melt for lard; the head and feet are usually left. But if you have good sport, you can seldom take home more than one carcase and the skins, and a choice bit or two from the rest of your game. The remainder is left for the vultures, who are generally sitting close to you during the whole of this operation. If no pack horse is by, one carcase is abundant extra load for a horse. If you load more you must walk and lead him. It is not easy for one man to put up the carcase of a blesbok or hartee-beest on a horse, and an eiland weighs as much as an ox, so generally you ought to keep another shooter with you.

In shooting over the flat the sportsman will frequently encounter lions. Previous to the late Kafir war hunting parties were so frequent and numerous, that many of the lions had been destroyed, and the incessant firing had driven the rest to the deep ravines beyond the *Windoogel Berg* or Hill, which bounds the flat on the south east side. But since 1834 there had been scarcely any shooting until now, so that the lions are again very numerous. The surface of the *Bontibok flat* undulates considerably, and in many places there are pretty deep hollows with a few bits of rock scattered about. With this exception there is no

cover there; not a single tree nor bush, and the grass is in no place more than a foot and generally not six inches long. Game can therefore of course be perceived at a vast distance, and as the ground is good and no mole or other holes, the sportsman may gallop as fast as he pleases, thereby making it almost impossible for game to get out of sight. A lion is an animal of considerable size and height, but yet, difficult as it seems, if after being seen the sportsman does not ride pretty close to him he will manage to hide himself. A bunch of reeds in the bed of the small brooks, a stone half the size of himself, or even a tuft of grass a little thicker and longer than common, suffices, as the animal crouches down very low.

When a party is out shooting, it is usual to give instructions, that on any of them seeing lions one should remain to mark them, while another rides off to collect the shooters. As soon as they are collected, they ride to the place and the lion is viewed. If it is on a plain he will make off at a rapid pace. The hunters give chaco, keeping him in sight. He will take the most direct path up hill and down, over grass, rock or precipices, (*kranzes*) towards some of his familiar haunts; but on finding himself pursued, and that the horses have the speed of him he prepares for action, and of all the sights I ever saw I think, to see a large blackmanned lion take up his position for battle is the noblest. In running along, the lion will once or twice look behind him and suddenly, without any notice given he will drop his hind quarters on the ground like a dog crouching, and then deliberately turn himself round with his face to the coming foe; his black mane standing erect, his tail lashing his sides, and his large golden eyes flashing fire,—while a low, deep murmuring, like distant thunder, shakes the ground. The shooters immediately draw up, nearer or more distant, according to the temper of the

lion, sometimes within 20 yards, sometimes 200 yards off. There is no necessity for hurrying. They dismount and tie all the horses' heads together with their heels turned toward the lion, who lies still with his huge head resting on the ground between his fore paws. The horses being secured, two of the party hold them, while the rest look at their priming, and then, if the lion shows no disposition to charge, the word is given to advance. This is done in line, sometimes behind the horses, but more generally immediately before them. They advance till the lion ceases lashing with his tail and bends it under him, and his ears back on his skull; then one of the party fires, and the lion comes on, receiving as he approaches the balls of all the party but one or two who have been told off for the purpose of reserving their fire for a coup de grace, or in case the lion should succeed in coming among the men or horses, which does sometimes happen. He generally drops dead at the feet of his victors, but sometimes a lucky shot ends his career earlier in the attack. The mode of approach of the lion varies. Sometimes he springs twice or thrice in succession and lodges close to or on one of the party;—at others he comes on at a canter, and, not unusually, he crouches within a few yards, 8 or 10, to make his spring. If he is not shot then, he will do mischief. When a lion is cantering up to the party, it is a good plan to throw a hat or any thing else to him. He immediately springs and lies down on it, presenting his broad forehead a fair mark which at that distance no man can miss, unless his nervous system is considerably affected. It is certainly not pleasant seeing the large yellow eye of the animal fixed upon you, and it seems to each individual of the whole party that he is the lucky man destined to feel the weight of the monarch of beasts. But it is seldom the case, that the man in front is seized. The lion springs

and then generally makes a half turn to lay hold of his prey, be it horse or man. His disposition is however noble;—for instead of killing, he contents himself with knocking down and lying upon his quarry generally *reverse ways*, or with his head to the feet of a man, though of course not always. He will then use his tongue and fondle the man a little therewith, and a nice rough towel it is! but seldom does him any great injury unless the man attempts to move. Then, a slight blow with the paw or a gentle and affectionate squeeze from his huge jaws reminds the poor chap not to be impatient. And truly, the caution is necessary for adding insult to injury the brute frequently betrays a considerable disregard of good manners. But what are the sufferer's friends doing all this time? They have loaded their pieces and are settling the mode of rescue. Long shots will not now do; the man would probably be hit, instead of the beast. Neither must the animal receive a body wound; for even if it were through his heart, he would not die till he had crushed the man under him in his jaws. The steadiest of the party advances slowly and cautiously as near as possible; he may almost go up to the beast; and kneeling on one knee brings his gun to bear as near as possible between the animal's eyes. A steady hand, a quick eye and a light touch on the hair trigger, and the lion quits his hold and rolls over dead—while the party raise their mauled and maltreated friend and take him away.

I was disappointed in the size of the lions here. The largest I have seen measured but 7 feet 10 inches from the rump to the nose, and that seems to be about the largest size. They are certainly fine animals. The lioness is much smaller, but equally and sometimes more savage than her royal mate, neither is their forbearance or regularity of proceeding to be so well depended on. I

have known one prepare to charge at a quarter of a mile off, and come more than half that distance at the party. She was savage as her "*mannikee*" had just been shot. Lions are met in pairs and in *troeps*. But the rule is on finding, first to give chace to the *zwart mannikee*, the old male lion, who has an immense black mane. The young males have shorter manes and lighter in color. The *wifies* have none at all.

There are a vast number of anecdotes current in the Colony regarding lion hunters' escapes and good ones too, but my limits will not permit me to narrate them,—though I met with the heroes of several well authenticated adventures. But I cannot refrain from giving my readers one, shewing the coolness and love of fun of a Bushman even in extremity of danger. The Bushman, a little diminutive wretch as they all are, armed with nothing but a long stick and the bow and arrows of his tribe, which are not nearly so large as the plaything bows of our children, though the arrows are very deeply poisoned, was travelling across a high tableland just before sunset on a beautiful summer's evening, when he became aware of a lion following his *spoor*, that is taking up his trail or footsteps, a common habit of the lion when hungry. The poor Bushman saw immediately, that ten minutes more would end his life, but he recollects that a little to the left of his road was a high *kranz* or precipice over a very rocky stream, and that under the very brink of this he had once taken a honey (wild bee's) nest from a ledge of rock, which if he could gain he was safe. The Bushmen have an astonishing facility of finding and getting at these nests in situations that to any people not depending on their activity and climbing powers for their subsistence would be quite inaccessible. Bushy pushed smartly on for this *kranz* and the lion rapidly gained upon him; but with only

a few yards to spare Bushy's asylum was gained and he was safe for the time. But he had scarcely seated himself when he perceived on the opposite *kranz* or bank of the ravine, that the setting sun's rays exhibited a complete picture of the scene above his head; there was the shadow of the *kranz*, and of the hungry, disappointed and angry lion. Bushy could not resist, now that he was safe, his inclination to amuse himself at the lion's expence, so taking off his hat and putting it on the top of his stick he elevated it to a level with the top of the bank and watching the shadow opposite had the pleasure to see the lion crouch on the edge and make several ineffectual attempts with his paw to reach the hat. Bushy continued pushing the hat nearer, and then removing it farther again, till the sun was almost down and then he held it still for a few seconds about a foot from the edge, and a little above it. The lion drew up his legs, tucked his tail like a spring under him, laid his ears back and with a growl of rage and defiance sprung at the hat, fell with it to the bottom of the precipice, and was dashed to atoms. Bushy descended from his cave, went down to the river, flayed the beast and finally walked home that night in the skin of the lion that meant to have eaten him !

I think I have now noticed all the principal sports of the Colony and Bontibok flat, but have omitted all mention of the bush and flat hogs, as I do not think they are ever hunted, though of course sometimes met with and shot. If the traveller wishes other sport and has not much time on his hands, he may pass the Winvogel Hill and steering for the confluence of the Witte (white) and Zwart (black) Kei Rivers,—meet with capital shooting. He will find in this country which is hilly, stony, and abounding in thorn bushes, immense numbers of hartebeests, a very handsome species of large antelope, much larger than the blesbok,

and celebrated for the great length of its head. They afford capital sport, if clever stalking, sharp riding, brisk firing and plenty of game constitute it. On the tops of the hill ranges here, is also found the prince of antelopes the eiland, an animal as large as an ox; and the best eating of any of the genus. When thin, eilands gallop fast; but when fat, the old bulls may be easily ridden up to, and shot from alongside. I should recommend future sportsmen to bring Indian hogspears both for these and other kinds of game. Many of the rivers in this part too contain the hippopotamus or sea cow (*zeekoe*) as it is styled in Dutch, which affords good sport but far better food. The skin of this too makes excellent *samboes* or whips.

From the junction of the *Keis* if the tourist turns towards the north by *Hanglip* or up the *Somo River*, he will also find abundance of game, viz. *hartebeests*, *cilands*, a variety of *gnu*, a variety of the *quaggha*, and another species of lion.

But if time is no object, and the traveller be really a sportsman let him visit Masilikatz's country. To accomplish this, he must make up his mind to many privations; but the sport that he will meet with will amply repay him. The details of a journey of this kind, and the necessary preparation are too long for me here to enumerate. Moreover persons desirous of performing a journey of the kind will always find at Cape Town, Graham's Town or Graff Reynett, many persons sufficiently qualified to instruct them. In those countries, commencing about three days journey beyond Latakoo, he will find game of almost every description. Several new species of antelope, amongst which is one hitherto unknown that has this year been discovered by my friend Captain Harris, of the Bombay Engineers, a gentleman who is at once a true sportsman, a talented artist and no mean naturalist, equally

ardent and indefatigable in the study as the field : success attend him ! The traveller will also find the white and other species of rhinoceros (*ses* ? *qu.* plural ?), lions in abundance, elephants by hundreds, and the princely zerapha or giraffe in bevies. These latter animals being quite new to the sportsman, I shall make no apology to my readers for mentioning the mode of shooting them. Riding along, the sportsmen spy a bevy of camel leopards and picking out their individuals give chace. The camels (as they are technically termed by travellers in the interior) go off at an awkward and not very fast gallop. Any moderately swift shooting horse can overtake them, and establish himself between their hind legs, which perform a singular evolution when the camel is galloping, and travel so far apart, that a horseman can easily ride directly under the animal's stern and between the two legs which work away on each side of him. Having taken his position the sportsman delivers his fire, one or both barrels as may be requisite, *a posteriore, between wind and water.* These beautiful animals are so useless, so perfectly gentle and harmless, and the young so easily ridden to a stand-still and caught, that it is perhaps almost a pity to shoot more than one or two specimens, especially when nobler sport can be had.

And now having closed the sporting part of my journal, I shall make brief mention of the weapons used in these sports and then close this chapter.

The usual *firing iron* of the Boer is a very long gun carrying a ball of about 10 or 12 to the pound. They, as do the Hottentots, prefer the coarse to the fine powder; charge very heavy, and invariably use hair triggers and backsights.

The Hottentots fire with musquets of every sort with a backsight and hair trigger, and load very heavy. Boers and Hottentots alike prefer long pot shots, and some fire well.

European sportsmen seem to prefer a pretty heavy double-barrelled gun with the largest practicable bore, say 10 or 11—some stick to the fine powder, but many agree with the Boers, that a large charge of coarse will drive a heavy ball farther and stronger. Flint and percussion have each their supporters. The gun mentioned before for rhinoceros and elephant shooting is also a favorite with many. Some like it of the primitive length of five feet; but the weight is formidable in a long day's work. But probably for general purposes, a double-barrelled rifle like those used by my friend Captain Harris, about 12 or 14 in the bore, is the very best weapon.

Lead bullets answer well for most game, but for very large game a portion of tin hardens and improves the ball.

Hunting knives which every one must carry, as shooters have to flay and break their own game, and frequently carry it too, should be of good metal and not too hard. Also warranted to strike fire, as a steel is frequently mislaid or lost, and then the back of the knife comes into use to light a fire, or a segar; more especially when a traveller loses his way or misses his waggon, and is forced to sleep "*sub dio*," or as the Colonists call it "*put up at the Bush Inn.*"

And now, gentle sportsman, adieu. If this Chapter induces even one Indian to prefer the shooter's life, and seek a restoration to health in the pure air, the invigorating breezes and wholesome exercises of South African wilds, instead of vegetating amid the streets of Cape Town or constitutionalising between the Devil's Mount and Lion's Rump—its end and aim are answered. And I may venture to promise that his health will be quickly restored, for a month's roughing and shooting like this would "create a soul under the ribs of death."

## C H A P T E R VII.

During the early period of my travels, sick and weak, I required amusement, but latterly, growing better, I was more able to consider subjects of business and interest. Thus my small volume commences with sketches of people and things, then rises to the consideration of the China trade and politics; relapses into discussions on the gaieties of Cape Town and sports of South Africa, and now towards the close takes up the more serious thread of steady consideration, history and speculation.

Before exhibiting the present state of the Colony, the inducements offered by it to settlers in general and Anglo-Indians in particular, it may not be unadvisable to give my readers a slight sketch of its history.

Cape Town was first founded by the Dutch in 1650 and remained in their possession till 1795, when it was taken by the British. It was restored to the Netherlands by the treaty of Amiens, and retaken by the British in 1806. It remained in our possession till the peace of 1815, when it was finally ceded to the British crown:

At the early periods of the Dutch settlement the countries in the neighbourhood were inhabited by several tribes of nomadic Hottentots, an ignorant, wild and pastoral race. These gradually retreated from the advancing face of civilization until they came in contact with warlike tribes of Káfirs and others, who formed part of an immense gradual migration which has been for many years, and even at the present moment is occurring from the interior of Africa. Great numbers of the Hottentots were of

course destroyed by these Kafirs; others sought new homes in the remoter northern and western regions, and many became incorporated with the Colony. The Hottentot country used to extend from the Cape of Good Hope eastward; probably as far as the Umzimvooboo or St. John's River; where they were met by the advancing Kafirs, and gradually forced to retire towards the Colony. The Dutch settlement had in the meantime increased, and farmers (or Boers as they are here called), the pioneers of civilization, gradually proceeded farther into the interior and established themselves, so that at the period of the Kafirs pressing hard upon the retreating Hottentots, about the year 1776, the boundary of the Colony was the Fish River. The weak Hottentots forced by the Kafirs, either to enter the Colony or quit the lands intervening between them and the Colonists, gradually disappeared, and the Kafirs obtained possession of the country lately occupied by them, namely, between the great Kei and the great Fish Rivers. The latter, I have before observed, was the Colonial boundary. The bed of it is densely clothed with bush or jungle, and completely intersected by precipitous ravines and defiles, many of them penetrating considerable distances inland; and this being the general nature of land near the Keiskamma, Sunday's, Bushman's and almost all the rivers of this quarter, it is evident that this frontier line was quite untenable, as no number of troops could defend it, and any number of cattle might be driven unseen and undiscovered from the very centre of the Colonial lands over the Fish River. The Kafirs, a bold and enterprising nation of cattle breeders, sons of the desert and possessed of all those faculties which distinguish the savage, of guiding their course through deserts almost impenetrable, having besides a peculiar whistle by which they can urge and drive cattle almost to madness, were not

long in the neighbourhood of the Colony till they perceived the facilities afforded them by nature for plundering. That knowledge once attained, they commenced a system of cattle driving, sometimes accompanied by deeds of violence and rapine. This course they pursued with such impunity that in 1818 they deemed themselves strong enough to attempt the conquest of the Colony. The repulse they met with on attacking the town of Graham's Town, the new founded capital of the province of Albany, was sufficient to cause them to entertain a higher respect for the British arms than they had previously evinced, but not enough to make them abstain from plundering, which they still continued. It was accordingly found necessary to drive them from the lands between the Fish and Keiskamma Rivers which were declared neutral, and to be kept as an unoccupied barrier betwixt the Colony and them. Some years subsequently this neutral Territory was ceded to the British Government by Gaika, the supreme head of the Kafir tribes, and was then portioned out to English and Dutch farmers, Hottentots and mixed breeds, besides which many of the Kafirs were permitted to dwell in it by sufferance during good behaviour. But in spite of all endeavours to civilize the Kafirs and wean them from their predatory habits, constant incursions were being made into the Colony, and cattle and horses to an immense amount abstracted. At length, the migration which I above alluded to still continuing, a tribe of Ficani, under a chief styled "*Matuana*," pressed upon the heels of the Kafirs, whose farther progress was prevented by the Colony. The Ficani being a more warlike people, would doubtless soon have destroyed the Kafirs as they had done the Hottentots, had not the Colonial Government come to their rescue. In spite of all the injuries done to the Colony by the Kafirs; in spite of the daily plunderings of which they

were guilty, the Colony stepped forward in their defence, and the British troops were marched 150 miles into the interior, where they met, gave battle to, and destroyed the Ficani. But even this stretch of kindness had no effect on the savage and almost irreclaimable Kafirs. Their marauding excursions into the Colony were as frequent as ever, and they gradually increased in boldness from the impunity which they experienced, and from the possession of arms, horses, &c. acquired from the Colonists, until their insanity once more reached the former height, and they invaded the Colony.

In the end of December, 1834, fifty thousand armed Kafirs simultaneously ravaged the whole of the frontier districts of the Colony; burned farm houses and utensils, killed sheep, drove away cattle and murdered every male inhabitant who fell into their hands. The damage sustained by the colonists from this irruption amounted to £288,625-4-9. The sufferers in this were many Dutch farmers, but chiefly British settlers, who had been induced to settle here in the following way.

In 1819 His Majesty's Ministers had deemed it adviseable to interpose betwixt the Colony and the Kafir tribes, a number of Scotch emigrants, who by peopling the country might render the ingress and egress of invaders less easy, and might also in various ways aid the military in defending the frontier. Certain inducements were therefore held out and many settlers arrived and were located. By their exertions the frontier districts soon increased in population, wealth, and value, so that from their arrival in 1820 to the breaking out of the irruption in 1834, a period of only 14 years, Graham's Town (the capital of the frontier) had increased from 22 houses and a population of 150 souls to 650 houses and a population of 2,500. Port Elizabeth too, the only seaport in the district of Albany, exhibited

the unparalleled increase of from 4 houses and 50 souls, to 100 of the former and 1,200 of the latter. The imports and exports had increased as follows—

	1820.	1833.
Imports; not.....	£500	£39,470
Exports, a few tons of butter,		£80,957

In consequence of this irruption of the Kafirs, troops were brought from Cape Town (for there were only 700 men on the frontier!) The inhabitants of the Colony were armed, Kafirland invaded, and the enemy after a very harassing warfare brought to sue for peace, which was granted them by the Governor, Sir B. D'Urban, on the following terms; namely, that they should restore 50,000 head of cattle, 1000 horses and give up the musquets they had got from the Colony. It was also found necessary to guard against the possible recurrence of such an irruption, by taking from the Kafirs the territory between the Keiskamma and Kei Rivers, which afforded the nearest eligible line of frontier and the only tenable one. Subsequently however many of the Kafir tribes requested they might be re-admitted to those lands and acknowledged as subjects of His Britannic Majesty, which was accordingly done, and every thing promised fair for a continuance of peace and the gradual civilization of the Kafirs, whose character must by this time be sufficiently apparent to my readers.

In spite of the sufferings they had undergone and the ruinous losses they had sustained, Boers and settlers were alike resolute to try their fortune once more, and leave it to the Government of their country to make them such compensation as might be deemed adequate. But in the meantime hundreds would have been reduced to absolute starvation, but for the charity of the Colonial Government, the inhabitants of the other districts of the Colony, and some parties in the Mauritius and India, who no sooner

heard of the destitution the frontier settlers were reduced to than they came forward to their relief.

But it rested with two classes to exhibit a dark contrast to the above Christian-like conduct; and those two the very last from whom it should have been looked for. These were some London Society's missionaries and His Majesty's ministers !

History from its very earliest pages down to the present leaf can show no greater examples of unremitting and unflinching zeal for the advancement and aggrandisement of any particular sect than those displayed by some of the members of the above mentioned Society of Dissenters, "Independents" they style themselves. A strong party of them have long been established in the Colony, and are headed by one whose talents and powers of persuasion would do honor to the most glorious cause, but whose conduct would disgrace the worst. One before whose name those of Gregory, Innocent and Loyola fade like the morning dew !

These missionaries resided in various parts of the Colony, and some on and beyond the frontier. Among them were some who were in the frequent habit of stirring up their Hottentot congregations, and impressing them with the belief that they were an ill-used people without any friends but these London missionaries themselves ; and one, if not more of them, had been suspected on very strong grounds of acting a similar part among the Kafirs previous to the irruption. But with that conduct I have here nothing to do. Subsequent however to the irruption these missionaries aided by some few turbulent and seditious characters in the Colony, commenced propagating in England a variety of stories, many of which have since been proved to be false, to the detriment of the Colonists and justification of the conduct of the Kafirs.

These tales, uttered as they were “ex cathedrâ” by men whose character and situation in life ought to have rendered them cautious of advancing what was hypothetical—these stories, shuddered at, wept over and believed at missionary meetings where the religious worlds of Sheffield and Birmingham assembled to hear the glowing language of “Apostolic P——,” the less showy speeches of the Missionary R——, who made up by strength what he wanted in elegance; the preposterous nonsense of a hypocritical Hottentot, and the mendacious statements of a Kafir fugitive and deserter smuggled out of the Colony by the missionaries, made a due impression on the minds of those who knew no better, who were not in the habit of judging for themselves, but believed every syllable that fell from the lips of their ghostly instructors.

From the missionary meetings the tales spread. Mr. Buxton assumed the throne of his power, His Majesty’s Secretary of State for the Colonies bowed submission to the behests of those by whose aid alone he retains his seat in the Ministry, and on hearsay evidence equally against fact, probability and possibility; unsupported by documents or even by witnesses; without pause or enquiry; on the bare statement of opinions by a few individuals who knew nothing of, or wilfully misrepresented facts, the population of a British Colony were condemned unheard; converted from the injured into the aggressing party; denied compensation for their losses; and belied and insulted by Lord Glenelg.

That acute statesman, just as he is wise, jumping at conclusions because it is too troublesome to arrive at them by the same path as other individuals, trusting his conscience to his father confessor, coolly writes, that the treatment the Kafirs had received, was quite sufficient to justify any act on their part, and that they had a right to appeal to arms

to force that justice which they could not obtain any other way !\* A pretty doctrine truly for a Colonial Secretary, and one which M. Papineau in Canada will undoubtedly thank His Lordship for putting into his mouth ; especially at the present crisis ! But to my narrative.

In consequence of the stories propagated in England by these missionaries and copied from a Colonial journal into the London papers, the minds of a large class of people styling themselves "philanthropists" (qu. *lucus à non lucendo*) became poisoned against the Colonists, who were looked upon as a blood-thirsty and grasping race, injuring and oppressing the native tribes, plundering their cattle and taking their lands without just cause or any reasonable pretext ! It never occurred to the "philanthropists" that seventeen years must have made a change, wonderful indeed ! in the feelings and constitutions of British emigrants, to cause them coolly to violate each law of honesty and morality, in the due observance whereof they had previously lived from their cradles up to their quitting England in 1819 ! Or they must have attributed some very powerful influence to the climate of Africa which could convert Britons, born and educated like the "philanthropists" themselves, at once into savages ! Reversing the adage of the Poet they must have fancied that

*Animum non cælum mutant qui trans mare currunt !*

But what is still more strange ; supposing for a moment what is not the fact, namely, that the Kafirs had been the original and hereditary proprietors of the soil of which they were dispossessed, the philanthropic party did not perceive that the British emigrants of 1819, the chief

\* The Kafirs "have ample justification and a perfect right to hazard the experiment, however hopeless, of extorting by force that redress which they cannot otherwise expect to obtain !"

sufferers by the irruption of 1835, could not have been the perpetrators of acts of cruelty and injustice which even by Lord Glenelg himself are alleged to have occurred previous to their settlement in South Africa ! They were at all events entitled to protection and compensation from the Government of their country, under whose auspices and at whose express wish they immigrated to the Colony.

On the peace being made as above mentioned, new posts for defence were planted in the newly acquired territory, and the Kafir subjects of His Majesty as well as British and other settlers had been located, when a functionary arrived from England bearing dispatches, disapproving of the whole proceeding, and casting unmerited blame upon those who had pursued a line of conduct reflecting the highest honor at once on their heads and hearts, and to which history and posterity will at all events do justice. The conquered territory was directed to be restored to the Kafirs; who were absolved from the allegiance they had voluntarily tendered. The country with the military posts and forts, many of which had cost vast sums of money, were delivered up to the Kafirs, and in addition to this tract, (which had been called the province of Adelaide) His Majesty's ministers directed the cession of the territory situated between the Fish and Keiskamma Rivers, which it had been necessary to take in 1819 before the arrival of the settlers, and which Gaika had subsequently ceded to us by treaty.

These orders were all carried into effect by Captain Andreas Stockenstorm, a gentleman of Swedish and African extraction, whom the philanthropic party at home pitched upon as a fit person for the Lieut.-Governorship of the eastern province of the Cape of Good Hope; probably with a view of proving to the Afrikaanders how unfit one of themselves was to govern a Colony, by shewing

them the ruin which this, the first Colonist ever appointed to such an office, brought upon his native land. This functionary acting no doubt on instructions which he had brought from England, labored diligently in his vocation, destroyed what little security did exist on the frontier, deprived the Government of the power of keeping the Kafirs in subjection or punishing them for plundering, and in fact, has brought the boundary line to exactly where it was in 1819, with the exception of the Kat River Settlement, a pet institution of his own and perhaps a portion of the Kaga which forms the farm of one high in authority ! The Kafirs ought to have had all restored if any. If a foot belonged to them, certainly the whole did !

But although the boundary is the same as in 1819, the relative positions of Kafirs and settlers are materially changed. The district of Albany was at that period thinly peopled and poorly stocked, and the Kafirs very differently armed from what they now are. Now Albany is a thickly peopled and rich district, demanding strict vigilance and protection ; while the Kafirs have learned the use of fire arms, have many horses, are well armed and have had the experience gained from frequent skirmishes with the British troops. They are in fact as much more powerful as Albany is weaker. Such is the present state of the frontier.

The present line of frontier gives the possession to the Kafirs of the dense forests, on the left bank of the great Fish River, traversing which any number of them can cross the stream, and unseen and unsuspected pursue their course through the forests on the right bank, which extend inland till they meet similar jungles which mark the course of Cowie and other rivers. All the streams in this neighbourhood run through deep ravines densely wooded, and each of these sends shoots as it were which join the

ravines of the nearest rivers on each side—thus forming a hidden path into the heart of the Colony, traversable by no foot but a Kafir's, but by him rapidly travelled and over which he will drive a herd with the utmost facility. The open country between the Keiskamma and Kei is the first that possesses any capabilities of being defended; the taking it was at once a deed of necessity, justice and charity, and the subsequent restoration of it to the Kafirs, an act of superlative folly, and ultimate cruelty to the Kafirs themselves. The facilities to plundering now afforded them will confirm them in the habit until human nature can no longer forbear, and the destruction that will then come upon them will be attributable to none but the pseudo-philanthropists' party.

Canada, Australia, Van Dieman's Land and South Africa, each hold out inducements to immigrants of small capital. It is not my intention to discuss these in detail. My present business is simply with the last. The advantages of the Cape of Good Hope are,—first, a climate inferior I think, to none in the world. The heats of summer are as far from intolerable as the cold in winter. New South Wales and its neighbouring island may compete with it, Canada cannot, for no other advantages however great, can compensate for the rigor of the iron winters of Canada. Secondly, the cheapness of land; but this it shares with the other Colonies. Thirdly, the cheapness of the necessaries of life—drawbacks there are comparatively none; the main one is the want of good government. Ample security for life and property are indispensable, and in this the Cape of Good Hope is deficient. In the more civilised districts, I mean those to the westward of the Colony, this want is not so much felt as there are no marauding savages prowling about the country, unquestioned and unmolested. These districts

afford ample scope for the exertions of settlers, let them be disposed to turn their industry to any pursuit whatever. Every species of grain, fruit, and wine grows luxuriantly and here is no want of lands well adapted for rearing sheep, cattle, and horses. Farms are of course much dearer in these provinces than in the more remote ones from the security being greater, the markets nearer and the demand more frequent. They can however be had of almost any extent, and at prices equally various. Travelling to the northward and eastward the land decreases in price, as there are no markets where grain can be profitably disposed of to any extent, so cattle and horse breeding are usual here. Proceeding eastward along the coast, some few places afford facilities for shipping corn which is accordingly cultivated to send to Cape Town, but except in the vicinity of these ports, and within a convenient distance of some of the towns or large stations of troops it may be taken as a general rule that the quantity of grain grown is only that requisite for home consumption.

Wines are made only in the vicinity of Cape Town for exportation; but for home consumption they are pretty general over a considerable extent of the Colony.

Horses used to form the staple commodity of Swellendam and several other districts. In most parts they thrive, but many spots are periodically affected with either a species of malaria, or the spontaneous growth of some poisonous weed, which causes the death of hundreds of horses.\*

Cattle, both Afrikaander and vader-land or crossed, thrive generally over the whole Colony, and would be productive stock if properly managed, though many of the breeders complain that they do not pay so well as other stock. The grasses in some parts of the “*veld*” or lands are

\* There is no indigenous horse in South Africa.

sweet ; in others sour. Cattle reared in the one are very apt to sicken and die on being suddenly removed to the other. Besides which those reared in the "*karoo veld*," or parched lands destitute of all vegetation but a species of bush, eat and thrive on that bush when cattle from richer lands soon die.

The African ox is tall, gaunt and with immense horns, frequently extending six feet from tip to tip.

Geese, of which large flocks are to be seen in many parts of the country, thrive almost every where. Pen quills have only within the last year been plucked here for use or exportation, but the down, which is plucked every six weeks, is valuable and will in time be more generally cultivated. A goose will yield after payment of all expenses about a rix dollar or 1s. 6d. per annum.

But the staple of the Colony is wool. The African sheep is a large, lanky, hairy animal with a tail composed of an immense mass of blubber. They are pretty good for eating, but of course useless except as mutton, and the skins for leather. This leather composes the dress of two-thirds of the inhabitants of the Colony. Some years ago the Saxon and Merino sheep were introduced into the Colony. Many English and some few Dutch near Cape Town commenced growing wool, and it was soon discovered to be by far the most profitable pursuit. Albany seems to have taken the lead, and there are now some very superior flocks there, as also in the neighbourhood of Cape Town. But the Boers never took generally to foreign sheep until very lately. Now a traveller will see but few places where the sheep do not exhibit a gradual diminution of the mass of blubber behind them ; and a few more crosses will make the woolled sheep general throughout the Colony. But every farm will not answer for this kind of stock. The grasses in many parts and those too the most enticing in

appearance, though sweet, are too rank and stiff for sheep. These animals thrive best in those places which appear almost bare to the eye of the casual observer, but exhibit to the nice discriminator short tufts of light, curly vegetation, sprinkled over the “*veld*” among loose stones and undulations and under bushes. On an acre of such ground a sheep will keep himself fat, free from disease, and in condition. Good sheep farms are found in almost every district, though of course some excel the others, but in many places it is necessary to change the sheep from one pasture to another, each half year, to avoid disease. Sheep are here subject to nearly the same but not all the diseases they suffer from at home. Scab and footrot are amongst the commonest; but a little care is sufficient usually to prevent, or cure them when contracted. Sheep demand a considerable outlay at first, but require but little expence afterwards, and the wool must find a market as long as the taste for woollen clothing, &c. continues or increases.

“Tot hominum quot sententiae!” every man, of course, has his own opinion, but in mine, there are many circumstances which conspire to render Albany, or one of the frontier districts, the best place for a settler. These are—

1st. It is inferior to none in soil or climate, is well watered and productive.

2ndly. It is equally well adapted for agriculture, or for equine, ovine and bovine stock.

3rdly. It possesses sure markets for grain, &c. in Graham's Town, Fort Beaufort and the other Military posts on the frontier; as also for cattle and sheep for slaughter.

4thly. It has an accessible port in Algoa Bay for shipping wool, hides, horns and other articles of export.

5thly. The population is in a great measure British. This last, well as I like the Dutch Afrikaanders, is I must confess a strong inducement.

But as I said before "chacun à son goût"—so I shall leave visitors to judge for themselves on this point. These few remarks and the tables appended are sufficient to enable my readers to form something like an opinion of the advantages of this Colony. Intending settlers will easily procure farther information when wanted. They must however bear in mind what I said before, regarding the state of the frontier. In the present state of things it would be at the best excessively foolish in any one to risk his capital in the frontier, or indeed in any other district of this Colony. The present residents have a right to redress of wrongs and compensation for the past for the future; all have a right to protection, and all have a perfect right to prevent by any means in their power Kafirs from invading their territory, and plundering their farms or wandering Hottentots from stealing their sheep. In spite of "*philanthropy*" the Government must secure the lives and properties of the subjects, or they must do it themselves. The only measures that can effectually do this, are the absolute prevention of any Kafirs crossing the Colonial boundary, and the passing a vagrant act which shall prevent any Hottentots wandering about the country without ostensible means of procuring a livelihood. These two are the first necessary acts; without which no one should settle in South Africa. Subsequent preventive measures will arise of themselves, when time once more shews that there is no possibility of keeping Kafirs out of the territory when the farmer's herds graze, where they can be approached unseen, and unsuspected through the defiles and kloofs of the Fish River bush.

Wool-growing, I have already mentioned, has but lately been attempted by the Boers in the provinces, who had long an inveterate prejudice against the “*Engelsch vark*” (English pig !) as they styled the Saxon and Merino sheep. But now they have found out that the mutton is better and that wool of two shillings a pound value is better than hair worth nothing.

To the speculator these provinces offer a field where he is almost certain of amassing wealth. To the broken down Bengalee they present an asylum where he may pass the remainder of his days, literally rioting in plenty on the pittance which he has acquired by twenty-two years hard service, and which in his native land would scarcely suffice to keep him out of jail. Or if he has been prudent and saved a small capital, where can he lay it out so profitably as here, or where can he count upon the probability of so long living to enjoy it ?

Let such of my readers as are free to choose, look at the following pages of estimates, &c., and pause before they thoughtlessly return to settle in the land of their fore-fathers, without first pondering well on the changes which a quarter of a century will have produced. The spots most familiar in childhood, the faces most beloved in youth will be equally changed. Those they were used to see in the hall and the bower must now be sought in the church-yard or the vault. The young and smiling will have become old and feeble, and be slowly dropping into the graves, where all their affections and half their memories lie buried. Is there much comfort in the picture ?—Yet it is true, as half the retired Indians in England will tell you ; contrast with this, the veteran officer who goes to the Cape of Good Hope. Say, he has saved twenty thousand rupees—it is amply sufficient to start him at once in a profitable farm which will keep him and all his family

handsomely, while his hard-earned pension may be allowed to accumulate to defray the expences of educating that sturdy and ruddy young monster playing round the waggon wheels outside the door, and the gentle girl who is receiving from her mother the first instructions in the art of hemming ; while the soldier farmer is riding through the gateway counting the number of sheep and lambs that have just been sheared, and the probable produce of the wool. Is not this better than moping about London in a half batta suit, or filling the half grudged chair placed at the corner of the table of a wealthy relation ? An Indian having saved fifteen or twenty thousand rupees might locate himself most comfortably in South Africa as any of the following estimates will show. And if in addition to that sum he is pensioned, he might live excessively well.

The salubrity of the climate has already been mentioned. The late Mr. Thomas Pringle, who, as the leader of the most successful batch of immigrants that ever settled in the Colony, had ample opportunities of forming a correct judgment, has given his opinion in favor of South Africa, as at all events equal to any other Colony as "a land to live in."\* "True," says he, "the Cape is subject to droughts, rust, storms of hail, excessive rains, diseases of cattle, marauding Kafirs, Bushmen, birds of prey, serpents and so forth ; but after a pretty intimate experience of all these annoyances, I am convinced, they are not worse than others of a similar or analogous description which prevail more or less in all new colonies. In New South Wales for instance, they have also their droughts, deluges and destructive hurricanes, &c. In Van Dieman's Land, they have aborigines and bushrangers to destroy their property, and disturb their quiet. They have moreover, scarcely

\* Thomson's Travels, Vol. 2d, page 228.

any servants but convicts, and little society that is much superior. In Canada they have an iron winter to endure, and an endless forest to hew down; not to mention rattlesnakes, ounces, bears, Indian strifes and bushfightings with brother Jonathan. A settler on the Kap River, in Albany, who had formerly resided some years in Canada assured me that he considered all the natural defects of South Africa balanced by its mild salubrious climate, as but slight compared to the appalling winters and woods of that Colony."

Mr. Geo. Thomson, a traveller of considerable experience has recorded his opinion of it thus—"It offers a settlement with a capital more moderate than would suffice in any other Colony. Three classes of emigrants might advantageously settle here. Capitalists to the amount of from £1,000 to £1,500, and those who have only £500 to £1,000 and mechanics and laborers."

The following table is taken from the work of the gentleman above quoted,—following which are some other estimates and accounts of sheep farms.

A full place or farm comprises about 6,000 acres or 3,000 *morgen*.

"The place being purchased, transferred and stocked, the settler could find the outlay somewhere as follows—

	NOTES BY THE AUTHOR.
"Expences of debarkation, waggon hire, travelling in the country, residence for 3 months and other contingencies, .....	£ 75
Purchase money of farm,.....	700
Transfer duty 4 per cent., .....	28
A waggon,.....	50
Furniture for house, .....	100
40 Country cows,.....	40
20 Vaderland ditto, .....	30
12 Draught oxen, .....	24
20 Young ditto,.....	30
500 Cape ewes, .....	100
100 Wethers,.....	25
10 Mares,.....	40
4 Horses, .....	28
<hr/>	
	<b>£1,270</b>
<hr/>	
	The prices decrease as you depart from Cape Town, £400 is about the average price in the frontier districts.
	This is too low say, .....
	Ditto Ditto, .....
	or 300 half-breds, .....

"If his capital is equal to the task the settler should take with him one or two bulls, rams, and may be, stallions."

Agricultural farming beyond what is necessary for home consumption is useless and profitless in the inland districts, from the absence of any mode of conveyance, and on the sea coasts in consequence of Colonial restrictions. Corn is however taken by sea to Cape Town.

As to wine growing, not to mention the duties at home, which militate against the success of enterprise in this speculation almost as strongly as the badness of the article itself, I doubt if Europeans could succeed in bringing their wines to the market at nearly such low prices as the Boers, who never include *carriage*, although a couple of leaguers of wine require a long waggon and sixteen to twenty oxen ! Moreover, the wine districts are those in the immediate vicinity of Cape Town, a settler near which would require a capital far larger than I have contemplated, and with which he could live better at home, than by speculating in Cape Madeira or Pontac. But I am fully convinced that to breeding horses, cattle, sheep, mules and geese, an enterprising settler might advantageously devote himself and his capital. But my readers shall judge for themselves.

The following are a few of the farms that were for sale in September, 1836, with the prices asked. They are mostly situated in the Caledon district :

		<i>Price asked.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Caledon.	Seldry's fontein 1000 morgen, (2,000 acres) with Government land attached.	£ 500	Probable price £300.
Ditto.	Uitvlucht, 1,200 mor- gen (2400 acres).	Price £ 250.	
Ditto.	Steinbok River, 5,000 morgen or 10,000 acres.	Price £1,500 to £2,000	Since purchased by a Calcutta gentleman, Dr. H — n, for £1,500.

		<i>Price asked.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Caledon.	Bredekamp's—a full place.	Price £1,500.	Sold since to a Bombay gentleman.
George.	Barnhard's on the Gowkamma, a splendid hill farm for cattle and horses, but the grass too sweet for sheep.	Probable price £500.	
Albany.	Krombosch a first rate frontier farm with 12 miles of the market of Fort Beaufort, and a few hours ride only from Graham's Town. A very superior farm.	Price £450	This is a capital farm, well watered and wooded, and abounding in land fit for cultivation or for pasture.
Ditto.	Kunap old Post, the best sheep farm on the frontier—a full place.	Price £600	£450 was refused.

Here is the actual account of a sheep farm in the Zuurveld (Albany) for one year:

<i>Cr.</i>	<i>r.d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
By 52 Rams at 15 each,	39 0 0		Expences of Shepherds,	
100 Ditto at 30, ....	150 0 0		&c. &c. ....	120 0 0
530 Crossed Ewes at 5, 132 10 0			Washing and Shearing	
20 Fat Wethers at 4-6, 4 10 0		5000 at 4d, .....	83 6 8	
12,000lbs Wool at 1-2½, 725 0 0		Carriage to market, ....	10 0 0	
		Clear profit in one year		
		£1051 0 0	on this,.....	837 13 4

(From Greg's Cape Directory for 1834 under head of Albany and Somerset.)

In the district of Caledon about 80 miles from Cape Town are situated some very good farms, extensive, well watered, with change of pasture, and some having water

mills actually producing six per cent. interest on the total prices of the farms. That one for instance mentioned as "*Bredehamp's*" was sold for £1,500 and the mill alone brings in £100 per annum or nearly 7 per cent.

In the same district a Major of the Bombay Army owns a large estate which is well stocked with Merino sheep, and has also a half of another flock, of which the following is the history, and which speaks for itself.

In May, 1834, Major H——n purchased 330 sheep, mostly ewes, but there were some few rams and wethers for which he paid £400. The account at the end of two and a half years stood as follows—

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1834 Sept. By Wool of 330 Merinos..	56 0 0	Price of flock,.....	400 0 0
		Expences of shepherds,..	40 0 0
1835 Sept. Ditto 500, ..	100 0 0	Net profit, .....	116 0 0
1836 Sept. Ditto 850, ..	150 0 0		
Price of young rams sold in 2½ years, ..	250 0 0		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 556 0 0		£ 556 0 0
Add increase of flock 520 sheep valued at 20 shillings each,.....	520 0 0		

The oldest established speculators in sheep on the Cape frontiers are Messrs. Daniel and Griffiths; they commenced eleven years ago with a joint flock, and subsequently dissolved partnership. Mr. Daniel in 1836 cleared a very enormous sum by his wool, and the latter from his Saxony rams and Cape ewes has established a breed, the wool whereof sold last season at 2s. 3d., 2s. 6d. and 2s. 9d. per lb.; thus beating the best of the New South Wales growth.

Mr. Cumming too, whose farm is within 18 miles of Graham's Town, two years previous to the Kafir irruption gave £1,500 for a flock of half bred Merinos, which this

last season cleared him £1,000. Besides which he sold the worst of his flock last year at 5 rix dollars or 7s. 6d. and this year at 8 rix dollars or 12 shillings each.

The farm of Major Parlby is situated near the sea shore, a few hours ride from Caledon. Sheep thrive in this *veld*, but it is necessary at times to change them from the low sea coast to the highlands a little farther inland. This gentleman has endeavoured to introduce the culture of nearly every species of Indian produce, but I believe with no very great success. Adventurers in trying experiments of this kind must recollect the difference of the price of labor in Hindostan and South Africa. A coolie who there would receive two or three annas, would here get a rix dollar per diem, an immense difference when their relative expences are considered.

The Dutch and some of the English seem to prefer commencing ab initio by crossing the original Cape sheep with the Merino, others purchase ewes with one or more crosses of pure blood. Where they can be procured for a not exorbitant price, I would recommend every settler whose means allow of it to purchase half-bred ewes, for though the outlay is a little larger, the return is much more speedy. Half-bred wool will bring 1s. 10d. to 2s. per lb. when first cross wool will bring only 4½d. to 6d.

A great mistake is at present made by the Cape horse breeders, but one which almost always occurs among horse farmers until experience shows them the fallacy of the theory on which they lean. They purchase long legged washy colts, the weeds of blood stables remarkable for nothing but their height, their length of leg and in some cases their ugliness, and put them at three years old to the common small mare of the country which is almost a poney. The produce is about as large as the dam and as worthless as the sire. Mynheer Von Dunk does not con-

sider that a waggon load of metal and a rifle bullet mould will never cast a cannon ball. When they reverse the system, the breed of Cape horses will much increase in size. Neither do they pay any attention to the mares. Let them take the largest mares they can get, spacious in barrel, and as bony as may be, and to such put a compact small headed and well shanked horse, whatever his pedigree, and not expect too much work out of him, and I will answer for it, that in ten years the Cape horses stand a hand and a half higher than they now do. Besides they would have some chance of getting rid of the ugly head and the weak leg which now distinguish them.

The breeds of Mynheeren Zondag and Rademyer are perhaps the best in the remote provinces, but those of M. Melk, Vander Byle, VanKenen and C —— are the best in the Colony.

A disease sometimes prevails among the horses from which but very few farms are entirely exempt. It is styled the "*horse sickness*" and has proved incurable hitherto. It seems to be occasioned by the deleterious nature of some plant or grass on which the cattle feed, and which only grows at particular seasons. It attacks all the farms in the country at once, and carries off sometimes a hundred horses from a single farm. This leads me to imagine that peculiar circumstances, connected with the state of the atmosphere, induces on particular soils a spontaneous growth of some poisonous herb. In many of the horses, which were examined after death, no disease was apparent in the heart, liver, stomach or intestines, but the lungs were filled with extravasated blood; as was also the brain. A singular feature in the disease is that the horses though in the habit of running day and night on the *veld*, almost invariably on being attacked seek the house or *kraal* of their master. Veterinary knowledge in Africa is

not sufficient to ascertain the cause, the seat, or the cure for this disease.

The Cape horses are the quietest and most gregarious in their habits I have ever seen. Kickers and biters are almost unknown. Some are spirited but the generality take the spur kindly. They are capable of undergoing great fatigue on little or no forage. Indeed the Boers' horses get no corn or grass but what they can pick up for themselves. The rider dismounts, unsaddles, *knee-halters* and turns loose his horse, about every two or three hours to take a roll and a \_\_\_\_\_. By attending to this the animal's back is kept cool and he will carry his rider fifty or sixty miles a day at an amble of about six miles an hour. The horses of Albany are superior in size and figure to those of the western provinces, but they are inferior in blood. English blood is however gradually finding its way into the veins of all the stock in the Colony.

I shall conclude these hurried pages with a table exhibiting the probable expenditure of an Indian settling in one of the frontier provinces of the Cape of Good Hope and having done so, make my bow to my readers.

#### ESTIMATE.

*Capital £1,600 or £2,000.*

	£	s.	d.
Cost of farm say average 7,000 rix dollars, .....	525	0	0
Transfer duty 4 per cent.,.....	21	0	0
A good farm will bear 2 sheep a morgen, or 1 per acre, but to begin with say 300 half-bred ewes at 10 rix dollars each, .....	225	0	0
Saxony or Merino rams, .....	50	0	0
A waggon, .....	50	0	0
12 Draught oxen at 35 rix dollars each,.....	31	10	0
Father-land and half-bred cattle, cows, &c. 1,000 rix dollars, .....	75	0	0
20 Brood mares at 30 rix dollars each, .....	45	0	0
2 Good saddle horses at 100 each, .....	15	0	0

	£	s.	d.
1 Stallion, say, .....	50	0	0
Household furniture, .....	100	0	0
	<hr/>		
Current expences for the 1st year say, .....	200	0	0
2d Year, .....	200	0	0
	<hr/>		
3d Year, .....	200	0	0
4th Year, .....	200	0	0
	<hr/>		
Outlay	£1,987	10	0
	<hr/>		
<i>Cr.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1st. Year. By 300 fleeces at say 2½ lb. each and 1s. 6d. per lb.—these are the lowest rates both of price and weight of fleeces,...	56	5	0
Increase of flock deducting ½d for casualties,...200.			
2d Year.—By 400 Ewe } fleeces as above 100 Wether } at 2s. per lb., . 120 0 0			
Increase,...300.			
3d Year.—By 550 Ewe } fleeces as 250 Wether } above, ..... 200 0 0			
Increase,...400.			
4th Year.—By 750 Ewe } ditto, .... 450 Wether }	300	0	0
	<hr/>		
1,200 Add—			
Value of farm, .....	525	0	0
Value of stock improved by 4 crosses of pure blood 20s. per head, at the very least,...	1,200	0	0
	<hr/>		
	1,725	0	0
	<hr/>		
	2,401	5	0
	<hr/>		
Profit,.....	£413	15	0

The fleeces of the Merino rams are not included above—they are of course valuable—nor is any credit taken for young rams sold—and all the rates assumed above are at the lowest possible scale.

I have now completed my task. It remains therefore only to make my exit in the best possible manner. My object has been throughout these pages to amuse, if I could not instruct; if I have succeeded in either, I am satisfied—if not,—“*lachar!*” Should my pages please, their success shall be attributed to the right cause, the heavenly disposition of our Indian critics, and the good nature of my Anglo-Indian brethren. If on the contrary they fail, I shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing that I have attached to no king or kaiser, the stigma of patronising a still-born volume. Adieu.

**F. I'N I'S.**







